

Hafa Adai!

Fuel adjustment charge remains the same for September. **PAGE 3**
Submission of PUA claims extended to October. **PAGE 4**

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Five more positive cases

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Five more incoming travelers were confirmed positive for COVID-19, all of them identified by travel screening and confirmed through arrival testing on Aug. 28 and fifth-day testing on

» **Torres, Muña look back on Road to 80**

Aug. 29, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement yesterday.

The new cases bring the See **FIVE** on **Page 4**

Zoning Board chair Babauta resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER


Zoning Board chair Tatiana Babauta has submitted her resignation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres effective Sept. 5, 2021, *Saipan Tribune* learned from sources.

Zoning administrator Geraldyn C. Dela Cruz confirmed See **ZONING** on **Page 4**



Oh My Grill faced off with some of the CNMI's veteran grillers from Kinpanchi, D'Elegance, and Matty's, and won over the hearts of the CNMI community during their debut at the 22nd annual Taste of the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oh My Grill tops booth competition at 'Taste'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Despite being a newbie to the annual Taste of the Marianas, Oh My Grill pulled out all the

stops to win this year's booth competition.

According to Gerry Dela Cruz, one of Oh My Grill's owners, their idea for their booth was to embrace every

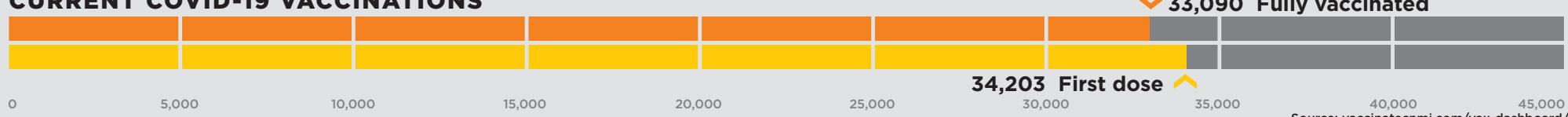
part of the CNMI's culture, incorporating both the Chamorro and the Carolinian cultures in their design.

"This is our first time joining the Taste of the Marianas

since we've only been in existence for one year so, for our booth concept, we really went after the Hafa Adai and Tirow theme that came with this year's Taste of the Marianas," she said.

See **TASTE** on **Page 4**

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Asia is looking to domestic visitors to get it through the COVID-19 pandemic's second year.

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NATION

Hurricane Ida blasts ashore as one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the United States.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Arc de Triomphe will be wrapped in an art installation designed by Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

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Local

CCC cites money-laundering concerns, other issues with i-gambling bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has raised many concerns about a House bill that proposes to allow each senatorial district to establish and regulate internet gaming.

At CCC board's monthly meeting last Thursday, CCC executive director Andrew Yeom said they have already forwarded their comments last month to the House of Representatives Gaming Committee about House Bill 22-47 that listed many of their concerns that call for numerous areas in need of clarity and decision making.

Yeom said CCC staff have worked on internet gaming market research in general to draw a very preliminary level of what kind of potential economic impact this internet gaming may have for this market, utilizing gaming data and years of gaming experience worldwide, especially in Asia.

He said those forecasts will be shown later for their internal review purposes only.

The executive director, however, noted that there are no known internet gambling data specifically gathered for the CNMI market, therefore forecasts are drawn upon best estimates based on combining various gaming data and principles that apply to the Asian gaming market. He said they just have to use their intuition to draw their own final conclusions.

"In other words, we could be wrong, but at the very least, this forecast can help you envision some level of educated guesses for this market, rather than being left in the complete darkness," Yeom said.

In CCC's comments on House Bill 22-47 submitted to House Gaming Committee chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Yeom and CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said that online gambling increases risks

in potential violation of federal laws as well as the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering, among other concerns.

Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero cited the Federal Wire Act and the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act as examples of federal laws that could potentially be violated.

They pointed out that internet gambling, or i-gambling, is still in its infancy, where best practices are not yet in place.

CCC urged further study of the industry, as well as possible amendments to House Bill 22-47 prior to enactment of any legislation regarding i-gambling.

"With proper regulations, money laundering and problem gambling risks can be minimized, but this can only

occur after further study and the development of best practices," Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero said.

They said they understand that the Legislature is responsible for making policy choices that govern the gaming industry, which is crucial to the CNMI's fiscal survival

and continued payment of obligations, most importantly the pension payments due the *man'amko* or senior citizens.

The two CCC officials suggested amending the bill to require i-gaming operators to have a business license in the CNMI and to utilize banks headquartered in either the CNMI or the United States. "Doing so will help minimize money-laundering concerns while also helping to maximize tax auditing and collections," they said.

Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero also recommended the use of the term "internet gambling" instead of "internet gaming."

They said a section of the bill appears to apply to the First (Rota), Second (Tinian), and Third (Saipan) senatorial districts, as all have established gambling in a manner contemplated by Article 21 of the CNMI Constitution. Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero objected to the inclusion of the Third Senatorial District in such a manner. They said gambling in the Third Senatorial District is not a local matter, but a Commonwealth-wide matter as gambling was established by Commonwealth law, and all senatorial districts receive monies due to the conduct of gambling in the Third Senatorial District.

Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero recommended amending the bill to reflect that the regulation of i-gambling is a local issue in the First and Second senatorial districts, subject to regulation

by local law, but gambling in the Third Senatorial District remains a Commonwealth-wide issue, subject to regulation by the Legislature as a whole and the CCC.

They said the bill proposes to accept bets for i-gambling users provided that "internet gambling operators utilize effective geolocation or other security features to ensure that internet gambling can only be accessed by individuals in the senatorial district or in other jurisdictions in which gambling is legal."

Yeom and DeLeon Guerrero said this matter may prove to be difficult as CCC does not have any regulatory power over other jurisdictions.

They said the bill needs to clarify and/or address some areas of concerns—restrictions to minors/underage gambling, which regulatory agency is in charge, Federal Wire Act mechanisms, number of licenses, license requirements, application fees, physical brick and mortar (land-based) casino, and applicable taxes.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) is the bill's author.

CUC's Customer Information Hardware System temporarily down

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that its Customer Information Hardware System has been experiencing technical issues, and is temporarily offline. However, CUC's customer centers are still open for business as usual, and CUC is currently encouraging its customers to pay their bills online at cucgov.org. As of press time, the system was still being repaired.

CUC said yesterday that "due to the limitations and/or inaccessibility of the system, assistance may take a little longer than usual." In some cases, a customer service representative may need to call customers to update them on the status of a request or transaction, or call customers to notify them that these requests or transactions will be completed at another time when the system is operational again.

CUC added that it "is working with system technicians to resolve the issue as quickly as possible." For customers wishing to visit one of CUC's customer centers during this time, CUC asks them to bring a copy of their latest utility bill. (Joshua Santos)

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Call **670.235-NEWS (6397)**
to learn more opportunities.

Fuel adjustment charge remains the same for September

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel adjustment charge remains at \$0.19355 per kilo-

watt-hour for the month of September.

Although there has been a

slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from July 2021 to Septem-

ber 2021 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service.

This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of

the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the levelized energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (PR)

Summer Snow Cafe & Kid's Cafe is latest ProaPerks Partner



Summer Snow Cafe & Kid's Cafe is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. **NMC**

Summer Snow Cafe & Kid's Cafe is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 5% discount on food and beverages at Summer Snow Cafe & Kid's Cafe.

Summer Snow Cafe & Kid's Cafe joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alyne Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginan Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikit's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Saloon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kevin's Cafe, Ki-

ki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tin-

ian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-002**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10th, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY-CHCC POPULATION HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

R & M REYES, INC. a CNMI Corporation has filed articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations pursuant to CNMI Law. Creditor and person with an outstanding claim against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

R & M REYES, INC.
P.O. Box 500058, Saipan, MP 96950

Villagomez, Tebuteb, Toves, Diaz renominated to CPA board



Villagomez



Tebuteb



Toves



Diaz

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has renominated Thomas P. Villagomez, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Barrie C. Toves, and Joseph Mendiola Diaz to serve as directors on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board.

The four will be representing the Third Senatorial District, or Saipan and the North-

ern Islands. Their appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

The four-year terms of Villagomez, Tebuteb, Toves, and Diaz will expire this October. If confirmed, Villagomez, Tebuteb, Toves, and Diaz will each serve a staggered term that will expire on Oct. 7, 2025.

In his message to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider last Friday about the re-

nomination, Torres said he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are confident in the four officials' capacity to carry out the functions and mandates of the CPA board of directors.

The other CPA board members are CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, vice chair Roman T. Tudela, and director Pete P. Reyes. Their four-year terms will expire on Oct. 7, 2023.



PUBLIC NOTICE for Hospital Dump Site

Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

WHO: For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

WHAT: A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

WHERE: 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

WHY: To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofofo, Saipan.

HOW: Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

Project Point of Contact:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax 808-835-4129
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Submission of PUA claims extended to October

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is extending the last day to submit applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to Oct. 4.

However, only the deadline to submit applications has been extended from September to Oct. 4; benefits will still expire on Sept. 4, according to CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. This means that eligible ap-

plicants can only file PUA and FPUC claims up to Sept. 4.

"We are accepting PUA applications up to Oct. 4, but PUA benefits will officially end on Sept. 4," she said.

DOL also cleared up some confusion raised by applicants regarding the new job search requirement that determines PUA eligibility for those on reduced hours.

The new job search requirement, which was implemented for PUA 3, encourages PUA and FPUC recipients to go out and apply for jobs.

They must then report information that they applied for jobs at a minimum of three per week. According to the portal, if no job searches are reported, applicants will be deemed ineligible for PUA benefits.

Benavente confirmed that individuals who are applying for PUA benefits on reduced hour status are exempted from this new job search requirement as long as they can submit verification from their employer that they are full-time employees whose hours were cut as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For those who have a full-time job but are now working reduced hours, you do not need to make three job contacts. The employer of that PUA applicant should submit a 'Verification of Partial Unemployment Status for PUA' form to the portal. This form will verify that you're a full-time employee who is still attached to the employer, which exempts you from the job search requirement," she said.

Benavente added that this form can be found on marianaslabor.net or the employer can provide their employees with a signed letter confirming the reduction in hours. "The form must be signed by the employer. A letter from the employer is also sufficient," she said.

According to a press release from CNMI DOL, the program has paid

out over \$4 million in unemployment benefits as of last week.

This recent disbursement included payments for PUA 2 and PUA 3 to more than 500 PUA applicants in the CNMI.

In addition to resolving claimant issues, all unpaid claims, and working with claimants to provide necessary qualifying documents, the CNMI DOL has also been working with employers to accurately certify employment verifications, timesheets and check stubs for their employees.

"The CNMI Department of Labor continues to do its part in mitigating the economic effects of the pandemic by processing PUA payments as quickly as possible while simultaneously keeping the integrity of the programs it administers intact," Benavente.

Man sues USCIS for rejecting his long-term residency application

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man whose long-term legal residency application was rejected is now suing U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and their respective department heads for wrongful rejection.

Jinluan Xu, a Chinese national who has resided on Saipan continuously for 24 years, has filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court for the NMI through attorney Samuel Mok for the rejection of his application for long-term residency.

Xu wants the District Court to issue a writ of mandamus directing USCIS to accept and process his 1-955 and 1-765 applications for status pursuant to the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act.

Mok said his client timely attempted to file his applications for status prior to the Aug. 17, 2020 deadline; however, the applications were allegedly wrongfully rejected twice, with both rejections based on erroneous grounds.

"Petitioner's attempts to resolve these erroneous rejections was unsuccessful, with petitioner not receiving any responses to his written requests for relief to USCIS. Xu is seeking the narrow relief of an order from this court mandating that the respondents accept and process the petitioner's applications for status that had been wrongfully rejected," Mok said.

According to the lawsuit, Xu is the father of a U.S. citizen son, Rui Hua Qiu, who was born on Saipan on Jan. 22, 2006.

The petitioner has resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019, and meets the statutory criteria for being eligible for CNMI long-term resident status, the lawsuit stated.

On June 25, 2020, Mok said his client attempted to file his applications for status with USCIS. On Aug. 7, 2020, USCIS rejected Xu's applications for status for two reasons: first, the filing fee Xu allegedly submitted with his applications for status was "incorrect or had not been provided," and second, Xu had failed to complete a box stating his "eligibility

category" on his 1-765 application.

On Sept. 3, 2020, Xu attempted to re-file his applications for status, along with a cover letter that included the denial letter stating that he failed to provide the correct filing fees; and the denial for his failure to provide his eligibility category.

"The documents petitioner attempted to re-file on Sept. 3, 2020, were identical to the documents he initially tried to file on June 25, 2020, with the exception of the aforementioned cover letter," Mok said.

In support of his attempted re-filing, Xu resubmitted the original money orders he had purchased from the U.S. Postal Service on June 23, 2020, which was two days before he initially filed his applications for status in the correct amounts of \$410 and \$85 for payment of the 1-765 filing fee and biometrics fee respectively.

Xu also highlighted the fact that his original 1-765 application did contain a statement of his eligibility category of "C37" on page 3, part 2, item 27, Mok added.

But according to Mok, on Sept. 18, 2020, USCIS rejected Xu's applications again.

yesterday that Babauta has indeed resigned.

Dela Cruz said Babauta's role as the marketing manager at the Marianas Visitors Authority is critical for the CNMI today and needs all her attention.

FIVE

From Page 1

CNMI's total to 241.

The CHCC statement said these five individuals have been quarantined and are being monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already initiated contract tracing for those who were in most immediate contact with the individuals. CHCC also reports that there is currently only one person who's been hospitalized due to COVID-19.

In contrast, in the neighboring U.S. territory of Guam, it has recently been posting triple digit numbers of positive COVID-19 cases: Aug. 25, 147 new cases; Aug. 26, 108 new cases; and Aug. 29, 179 new cases.

In related news, to mark the end of the CNMI's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, "Road to 80," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muñá and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres looked back at the campaign's seven-week run and emphasized the importance of continuing to get vaccinated, even as the campaign and its raffles have ended. The two appeared in a video that was posted on Road to 80's Facebook page yesterday.

In her remarks, Muñá talked about the importance of continuing to get vaccinated, the CNMI's vaccination numbers in comparison to U.S. states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's full approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

"Since the first case was detected in March 2020 the CHCC, the governor, and the [Governor's] COVID-19 Task Force were on the mission to ensure we control the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI. ... When we first rolled out the vaccine program, it was no surprise to see many in the CNMI step up to the plate to get vaccinated for ourselves, for our loved ones, for

Last April 16, Torres submitted to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation the renomination of Babauta and vice chair Francisco Aguon for two more years on the board.

Babauta's and Aguon's terms expired last May 14, 2021.

Babauta and Aguon were automatically confirmed to the board after the SNILD failed to act on their reappointment within 30 days.

our neighbors, coworkers, and our overall community," said Muna.

"Our vaccination rate is currently higher than most states. Unfortunately, the rest of the globe is experiencing the widespread [effects] of COVID-19, and worse variants will still emerge. Therefore I humbly ask for you all to continue to urge more of our friends and family to get vaccinated, so that risk of any new variant remains low for the CNMI," Muñá added.

Muñá also said it was "wonderful to hear" that the FDA has already fully-approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, hoping that the FDA approval will "reassure anyone with concerns on the efficacy and safety of the vaccines," and said that FDA approval of Moderna's vaccine "is not far behind. She also asks those with questions and concerns about the vaccines to call 682-SHOT (7468).

Torres said it is a community effort to combat COVID-19, and encouraged the community to continue getting vaccinated. He added that before Road to 80 was launched, the CNMI was barely at 60% fully vaccinated. Now, according to the vaccinatecnmi.com dashboard, 78% of the CNMI is now fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Monday afternoon and the CNMI is less than 900 people away from reaching 80% vaccinated.

"We want to encourage our community to please get vaccinated to protect each other for your family, loved ones, coworkers, neighbors, and everyone that calls the Marianas home. ... When we started [Road to 80] we were at barely 60% [fully-vaccinated]. In order for us to reach herd immunity, we need to reach 80%. We can't complete this without everyone's cooperation. We've been fighting COVID together as a community," said Torres.

The video can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/roadto80cnmi>.



TASTE

From Page 1

DelaCruz said the booth design was a team effort, with everyone coming together to share what they wanted to feature in their booth.

"We incorporated the latte stone, symbolizing the Chamorro culture, which we built using coconuts. Then we had the *mwar* that lined our booth, symbolizing the Refaluwasch culture. We added leaves from the coconut tree because for those who live on the islands, the coconut tree is the tree of life. We put a grass skirt

at the front of our booth to symbolize flame, which also symbolizes our grill because we wanted to incorporate a little bit of us too. We had woven a fish from coconut leaves and we also added the *talaya* because fishing is a way of life here. Lastly, we added island flowers as a finishing touch because it really is the beauty of our islands," DelaCruz said.

Although their debut was widely welcomed, DelaCruz said it was overwhelming but a feeling that was also accompanied by happiness because of the many people who lined up to get a taste of what they served. "We were actually very over-

whelmed but we put in a lot of work and it was really nice to see that people were really standing in line for our food. We enjoy it too and we just really wanted to share that with the rest of the community," she said.

Throughout the three-day festival, Oh My Grill had one of the longest lines and even up until 10pm, when all the other concession stands were closing up for the night, Oh My Grill still had a handful of last-minute customers wanting a taste of their dishes.

Coming in at second place was Island Grinds, followed by D'Elegance, and completing the top four was Herman's Bakery.

Heated arguments beset JGO hearing; Kaipat ends testimony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police Lt. Henry Emery Kaipat of Boating Safety finally completed his testimony last Friday afternoon before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, but not before the committee hearing got bogged down by arguments over his constitutional right to speak in Carolinian and his insistence on speaking on the record about his opinion of the proceedings.

In the continuation of the JGO investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures and travels, Kaipat's testimony was held up several times by heated debates between his lawyer, Anthony Aguon, and some committee members, much like what happened at the start of Kaipat's testimony last Wednesday.

That prompted JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) last Friday to preface the hearing by warning that "the animated contest" of last Wednesday's hearing will not be tolerated and that any excessive and unnecessary outbursts and speaking over the members of this committee will not be condoned. At one point, Babauta warned Aguon: "I must remind you, counsel, that your witness is the recipient of the subpoena by this committee and you may not speak or testify for him."

The House's official translator, Jesus Elameto, made a statement in Carolinian addressed to Kaipat. House counsel Joseph Tajeron then handed to the media a copy of Elameto's statement written in



Police Lt. Henry Emery Kaipat raises his hand to be allowed to read his statement Friday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan). The JGO is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

English. In the statement, Elameto told Kaipat that in his letter written in plain English, he asked to testify in Carolinian and that the JGO Committee granted that request.

Elameto said Babauta had told Kaipat and his counsel that he may speak in Carolinian, Chamorro, or English. He said how Kaipat responds to the questions is entirely up to him.

Elameto said the committee noted that when Kaipat was sworn in, the oath was in English and he responded in Carolinian without any problems.

The translator said they will ask questions in English, and if Kaipat understands the questions, there is no need to translate anything that he already understands.

Elameto said Kaipat may utilize his interpreter if he prefers. He said Kaipat may respond to the question in Carolinian or any language that he prefers.

Later in the proceedings, Kaipat clarified that he never stated that he was unable to understand English as he can speak English and Chamorro

as well. He, however, pointed out that he understands best in Carolinian.

Kaipat said this is not an issue of his proficiency in English and that this is not an attempt to delay his testimony. "This is about making sure that I understand your questions fully and clearly, so that I may provide the best response," said Kaipat, adding that, most importantly, this is about promoting and preserving the islands' culture.

As the committee was about to start asking Kaipat about some travel-related documents, Kaipat insisted on being allowed to say something about the proceeding. That prompted Babauta to order a short recess, during which Aguon said it sounds like the committee is preventing his client from speaking.

The lawyer then gave the media a copy of Kaipat's statement written in English and Carolinian. In it, Kaipat said he understands the importance of testifying before the committee. "That is why I have requested to testify in

Carolinian, which is a right provided to me by the CNMI Constitution," he said, adding that the inclusion of Chamorro and Carolinian as the official languages of the Commonwealth in the Constitution is a recognition of the culture and traditions of the people.

Kaipat said the government should encourage the usage and preservation of the CNMI's native languages. Instead, he said, the JGO's decision to deny his simple and reasonable request to have its questions translated into Carolinian has turned his testimony into a big spectacle.

Kaipat said the CNMI Supreme Court's opinion also protects his rights.

He said JGO questioned the content of his notice to speak in Carolinian, but has laid no rules or procedures on how to go about making such a request or how any of those requests are processed. The lieutenant said the committee also doesn't have any procedures for how translations are made at hearings.

He said when a prior witness

provided the same notice to testify in Chamorro, a translator sat next to Babauta and statements by both the committee and the witness were translated right after they were spoken.

Kaipat said at the next hearing for the same witness, the JGO decided to limit translations only to questions directed at the witness.

Now, he said, the JGO insists that it will only provide translations when he asks for them. "Yet when I did request on record for each of the committee's questions to be translated after it was asked, the committee still refused to do so," Kaipat said.

He said this is his request and that he's here in compliance with the subpoena and stand ready to answer any questions.

However, the lieutenant said, he's invoking his right to speak Carolinian and to have the questions asked him to be in Carolinian.

When the hearing resumed, Babauta proceeded to read his prepared statement. That prompted Babauta to ask Aguon

on what's going on and what he advised his client. Aguon said his client is speaking and that it is not a response to Elameto's statement, but a statement regarding what's going on and also making a request.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) then reiterated the rules that Babauta had spelled out at the start of the hearing, saying that if Kaipat witness wishes to submit a statement in writing, he may do so but they need to get on with the proceeding.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) described the situation as "insane," saying that Aguon had made certain accusations that were disrespectful to Babauta and the committee and cannot be tolerated.

"I don't think any judge would tolerate this type of behavior. And certainly our rules are clear, who's in charge right now is the chair!" Propst said.

Aguon said the committee's rules don't trump the constitutional rights of his client. "Nobody's trumps the constitutional rights. And that's all I'm trying to preserve. You guys are trying to make this like personal attack?" Aguon asked.

Sablan said this is not the time to debate with the counsel of the witness. "I have zero interest in debating with the counsel for our witness today and really we do have to get through this proceeding. Counsel should not be allowed to disrupt or interrupt or unduly delay this lawful investigation. So let's hear from Lt. Kaipat. Let's stop hearing from the counsel and let's move on," Sablan said.

The JGO later presented exhibits and Kaipat started his testimony in Carolinian.



NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustee Vacancy Announcement
Vacancy Announcement # 21 - 002

Details of this Vacancy: (To be completed by Nomination Committee Chairperson)

This announcement is to fill the following vacancy for a:
 • Saipan Business Representative
 For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2023.
 (Insert Date)

Qualifications for Board of Trustees:

Qualifications of a Board member consist of the following:
 • A legal domiciliary of the CNMI and a U.S. Citizen.
 • Of legal adult voting age within the CNMI. In this particular vacancy, the adult must be a registered voter at their respective islands; and
 • A demonstrated capacity for representing the CNMI's career and technical training fields relative to meeting the overall purpose of NMTI.

No person may become a Trustee while a CNMI government or NMTI employee, or until one year after the conclusion of CNMI government or NMTI employment.

Please email cnmi.nmti@gmail.com for more details, job description & qualifications. Job duties & description can be referenced at CNMI Public Law 20-92 §12119.

How to submit interest:

To submit interest to serve on the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees, kindly email a letter of interest and your resume to: cnmi.nmti@gmail.com

Due date: (To be Completed by Nomination Committee Chairperson)

Closing Date: Friday, September 3, 2021.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-035**

SUBMISSION DATE: September 29, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1253 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after August 31, 2021 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on September 17, 2021, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1253**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 22, 2021 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ HELEN C. SABLAN
STATE MEDICAID AGENCY DIRECTOR**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq.*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, September 3, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes - July 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Reports
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
 - C. Legal Counsel's Report
- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Personnel Committee
 - B. Operations Committee
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Update on Power Plant, DE5 and DE7
 - B. Update on Payment Kiosks
 - C. 1% Payment to OPA under Public Law 9-68
 - D. 5% Employees' Performance Base Increase
 - E. Telesource - Wartsila Engines
 - F. Procurement Regulations Proposed Amendments
- V. New Business
 - A. Procurement Matters for Approval
- VI. Public Comments**
 - **
- VII. Executive Session**
 - **
- VIII. Announcements
 - **
- IX. Adjournment
 - **

/s/
MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



The new members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club were sworn in last Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Lions Club inducts new members, installs new board

The Saipan Unity Lions Club inducted last Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, the club's new members and installed the new board of directors for Lion Year 2021-2022.

More than 135 guests attended the event, which was held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. Among those that attended were members of the seven lions clubs organization here on Saipan. The occasion was made more special by the attendance of the clubs' District 204 governor, Saturnino "Atoy" Banting.

In a statement yesterday, the Saipan Unity Lions Club expressed gratitude to "all our special guests, fellow Lions, friends and family who were there at our event and showed the love and support to our club. We also thank all other fellow Lions [who were unable] to attend due to limited seats. Truly, [it was] a night where there [was] unity of all and support for each other and a goal of 'service from the heart.'" *(Saipan Tribune)*



The Saipan Unity Lions Club installs its board of directors for Lion Year 2021-2022 last Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and officials of the Saipan Unity Lions Club pose for a picture with club officials, guests, District 204 governor Saturnino "Atoy" Banting, and others after the induction of new members and installation of new officers last Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

September is National Recovery Month in the CNMI

» Sept. 20 is National Addictions Professionals Day

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

September is National Recovery Month in the CNMI, and Sep. 20 will hereby be recognized as National Addictions Professionals Day, commemorating the hard work that addiction professionals do on a daily basis. The theme for Recovery Month this year is "Recovery is for Everyone:

Every Person, Every Family, Every Community".

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios made official Recovery Month and National Addictions Professionals Day during a proclamation signing on Aug. 27 at the Office of the Governor conference room.

It was shared during the proclamation Friday that mental health and substance use

disorder has had a nationwide impact, as 70% of users who try an illegal drug before 13 years old develop a substance use disorder within the next seven years, compared to 27% of those who try an illegal drug after age 17.

It was also learned Friday that the CNMI's HOPE Recovery Center—which is the CNMI's sole substance abuse residential treatment provid-



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, bottom row sixth from left, shares a photo with the CNMI's addiction professionals after an Aug. 27 proclamation signing that designates September as National Recovery Month in the CNMI and Sept. 20 as National Addictions Professionals Day. Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios held a proclamation signing last Friday at the Office of the Governor conference room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

er—recently reported that "the greatest intake for services are self-referrals at 53%," and that the center "aims to promote and support evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the Commonwealth, who make recovery in all its forms possible."

By proclaiming September

as National Recovery Month in the CNMI and designating Sept. 20 as National Addictions Professionals Day, the Office of the Governor and the HOPE Recovery Center aim to bring awareness to mental health and substance use disorders; encourage those in need of recovery to seek help; and honor the work of addiction professionals.

In a Facebook post Friday from the Office of the Gov-

ernor about the proclamation signing, Yvette R. Sablan—who is special assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation—"thanked individuals in the community for their commitment and life-changing hard work in building awareness about substance use and addiction, which has been impactful in reducing the stigmas that prevent our loved ones from receiving treatment and support."



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are joined by addiction professionals and supporters in front of the Office of the Governor after the designation of September as National Recovery Month in the CNMI and Sept. 20 as National Addictions Professionals Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MCS classes cancelled Sept. 3 and 6

Mount Carmel School announced yesterday that classes will be cancelled this Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, for an anticipated professional development for her employees. Additionally, in observance of the Labor Day holiday, MCS classes are cancelled on Monday, Sept. 6, 2021. The campus will be closed on these dates. The campus will reopen and classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021. For more information, call 670-234-6184 or 670-235-1201. (PR)

5.5-magnitude quake in Inarajan

At 12:47am on Aug. 25, 2021, a report of a 5.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 71 km south-southeast of Inarajan Village, Guam. Currently, there are tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)

Water service interruption tomorrow in parts of Dandan, Obyan, Naftan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, Sept. 1, 2021, from 8am to 3pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Obyan, Naftan and portions of Dandan due to the connection of a 6-inch PVC pipe from the new PSV assembly to the existing 8-inch PVC pipe from the San Vicente water tank to the Dandan water tank. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after the project.

This project is part of the San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project to provide a more reliable water system to the people of the CNMI. It is being funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Power interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, from 8:30am to 2:30pm for a portion of Dandan. As the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace rotted wooden power poles to concrete poles along Flame Tree Road in Dandan.

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 1 Circuit
 ■ Project location: Dandan
 ■ Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Dandan (portions of Flame Tree Road, Holiday Drive, Independence Loop and Natibu Place).
 ■ Water well(s) affected: None
 ■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

'Over 1,000 signatures support repeal of Saipan local law'

Two e-gaming companies in the CNMI announced yesterday that they have collected over 1,000 signatures on a petition asking for the repeal of a Saipan local law that essentially doubles the license fees of e-gaming venues.

In a statement, MP Holdings LLC and Mariana Entertainment LLC, which operate Saipan Vegas and Club 88 respectively, said that supporters have also signed over 100

letters addressed to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation asking for delegation lawmakers to meet with the e-gaming operators and to work with them on compromise amendments to Saipan Local Law 22-6.

Bart Jackson, general manager of MP Holdings LLC, said: "We are very grateful to the community for the support, and particularly their support for our call to

ask the Saipan delegation to amend SLL 22-6."

The statement quotes Jackson as saying that the e-gaming operators will be delivering later yesterday to Sen. Vinson "Vinnie" Sablan (R-Saipan), who chairs the delegation, an update to their petition, which now contains more than 1,100 signatures.

"We will also be delivering more than 100 letters of support from lo-

cal voters respectfully asking for the Saipan delegation to amend SLL 22-6 to reduce the harsh effects of the double license fees.

"We remain hopeful that we can reach a reasonable compromise with the Saipan delegation regarding an amendment to SLL 22-6 that will allow us to remain economically viable and to keep our more than 70 local employees employed," he added. (Saipan Tribune)

Court imposes \$20K bail on woman in drug case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
 kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$20,000 cash bail on a woman who was allegedly found in possession of a controlled substance following a violation stop.

Jastalyn Vivas Camacho, 30, appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last week for a bail hearing after she was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance after she was stopped for a traffic violation.

Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail on the defendant and remanded her to the custody of the Department of Corrections. She was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Sept. 1 at 9am, and for her arraignment on Sept. 13 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Karie Komstock was appointed by the court to represent the defendant while assistant attorney general James Houston appeared for the government.

According to court documents, a police officer was conducting a routine patrol on Tun Herman Pan Road

on Aug. 20, 2021, at around 2:10am when a sedan traveling at high speed swerved in front of his lane, almost causing a head-on collision. The sedan immediately swerved back to its lane going south.

The police officer then made a U-turn, activated his emergency lights, and followed the sedan until it pulled over.

When asked for her driver's license and registration, the driver of the sedan, Camacho, told the police officer that she did not have her driver's license with her.

As the police officer was talking to Camacho, he noticed in plain view a clear bag containing a crystalline substance on top of the center console right in front of a gear under the radio player.

When asked about the contents of the clear bag, Camacho said it was not hers but might know whose and refused to give names.

A Drug Enforcement Task Force officer tested the crystalline substance, which weighed 0.7 grams, and it yielded presumptive positive for the presence of methamphetamine.



18 begin paid apprenticeships to become certified nursing assistants through UOG

Under the Nursing Assistant Education Program, 18 students received their pre-apprenticeship and caregiver certificates on Aug. 16 at the University of Guam School of Health. The next step of the three-month program, funded by a grant through the Guam Department of Labor, is a paid apprenticeship that prepares students to become certified nursing assistants.

Guam will soon have 18 more certified nursing assistants, or CNAs, as a third cohort completes the Nursing Assistant Education Program through the University of Guam School of Health, the UOG Global Learning and Engagement Department, and the Guam Department of Labor.

The students have completed caregiver training and are now beginning paid apprenticeships at Guam Regional Medical City, Health Services of the Pacific, and, for the first time in the program, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

"This is the first time a government agency has had CNA apprentices, so it's quite groundbreaking," said Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of UOG School of Health.

Launched in February 2019, the Nursing Assistant Education Program was created specifically for workforce development.

"With the growing demand for

CNAs in Guam, the program is meant to provide career growth opportunities for the community and help fill vacancies for essential health care professionals," Hattori-Uchima said.

The UOG School of Health has trained 41 CNAs since the start of the pandemic and 81 CNAs since the program's inception. The CNAs who completed the previous apprenticeship programs are working for GRMC, Health Services of the Pacific, GMHA, and Catholic Social Service.

CNAs work under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse preparing rooms and supplies, assisting with tests and procedures, and directly assisting patients. Unlike caregivers, CNAs must undergo a set number of classroom and clinical training hours and then pass both a written and skills exam.

The three-month program begins with pre-apprenticeship training for mental health, first aid, communica-

tion, confidentiality, and other skills necessary for employment. Students then complete 120 hours of theory, skills lab, and clinical training and a paid apprenticeship at one of the program's participating employers, where they are then guaranteed employment upon passing the CNA exam and becoming officially certified.

"Welcoming the CNA apprentices to GMHA for the first time is such an exciting honor for us," said Lillian Perez-Posadas, CEO for GMHA. "We're thrilled to be a part of their educational journey. Being the community's trusted public hospital, GMHA will provide these CNAs with incredible hands-on experience with a variety of patients from all walks of life. We know this will undoubtedly shape them into compassionate nurse assistants, dedicated to excellence in health care."

The cost of the students' tu-

ition, uniforms, books, clearances, and physical exams is covered through the Guam Department of Labor via the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant, a \$1.7-million grant to increase registered apprentices in Guam within allied health, telecommunications, construction, and hospitality.

Partial funding is also provided by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program at the UOG School of Health, which is funded by a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Those interested in a future cohort of the Nursing Assistant Education Program need to have a high school diploma and can contact GWEP at uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu or the American Job Center at the Guam Department of Labor at (671) 475-7000. (PR)

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Afghanistan withdrawal doesn't mean the war on terror is over. It must continue

Rooting out global terrorism is not synonymous with imperialist hubris.

And those who strive for power through suicide bombings thrive in violent, nondemocratic societies, the kinds of places where leaders talk to their people with an AK-47 at their side.

We hope that pair of salient truths are being remembered at the White House as America mourns the loss Thursday of at least 13 American service members, killed along with some 200 Afghan men, women and children by a brutal terrorist attack outside the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Especially as we approach the 20th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

On an August day that proved to be the darkest of Joe Biden's young presidency, the terrorist group known as Islamic State Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K, or IS-K, claimed credit for the pair of explosions that maimed or killed not just members of the U.S. armed forces working for the safety of others, but Afghans merely trying to secure their own security and freedom from oppression.

Although the day represented one of the worst days for U.S. casualties in the entire 20-year operation in Afghanistan, it does not appear to have been carried out by the Taliban, the long-standing adversary in that profoundly flawed campaign. It was the work of a third party, a yet-more-extreme group with a vested interest in undermining the Taliban's apparent victory, particularly if the Taliban plans to, as it has claimed, mend its ways.

ISIS-K is known for disregarding international borders on the premise that the Islamic Caliphate cannot be confined by such. Its stated goals include the defeat of Israel and the United States. And it is known for its adaptability to local conditions.

Clearly, the chaos outside the airport in Kabul offered up an ideal proving ground: crowds of innocent people, a lack of security, a desperation so intense that crowds reportedly even returned to the airport Friday despite the high likelihood of further attacks.

When Biden announced the symbolic date of Sept. 11 as the end of the U.S. military's engagement in Afghanistan, he was intending to send a signal of some kind of completion to what once was known as a war on terror or, at the very least, an acknowledgment that a definitive decision had been made about a war that no longer matched U.S. interests. A decision made from a position of strength.

The brutality of that region of the world has undermined that narrative.

Instead of signaling that the events of 9/11 were in the rearview mirror, the perpetrators hunted down, Americans have seen the specter of terrorism hurtling back into sight. There might not be direct evidence of ISIS planning attacks on U.S.

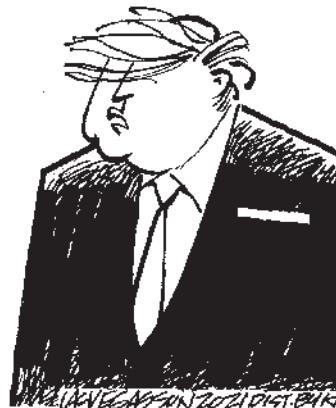
See AFGHANISTAN on next page

AFGHANISTAN EXIT PLANS

WE WILL GET OUT.

WE WILL GET OUT.

WE'RE GETTING OUT.



MIKE SMITH

It didn't have to end this way

The darkest day of Joe Biden's still new presidency becomes darker and even more tragic when we pause to rethink about just how and why it all happened.

Especially: how 13 U.S. troops working safety missions and 170 Afghan civilians fleeing the Afghan Taliban to find new safe lives ended up killed Thursday in a crush of humanity outside Kabul airport that made them easy prey for an awaiting ISIS-K terrorist suicide-bomber.

Looking back, we can see how the missteps and misjudgments of big-credentialed deciders half a world away put in motion the confluence of events that will now forever be known in history by their unintended consequences. It ended with a new American president, who was determined to end America's never-won war in Afghanistan, making the command decisions that ended up with America instantly suffering its most devastating military fatalities in a decade. And what made the tragedy downright Shakespearian was that none of it occurred because President Biden ordered a risky mission in an effort to win the war. No, his commands were only about trying to end the war in a way that would most look like America was at least losing it with honor.

On day one of his presidency, Biden knew this much for certain: His predecessor, Donald Trump, had cut a deal with the Taliban a year earlier in which he signed what amounted to a surrender—he pledged the United States would withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by May 1, 2021. Of course, Trump was widely criticized for setting an end date that the enemy would know all about. But Trump didn't care—because the Taliban agreed not to attack the U.S. troops as the U.S. withdrew them.

But Biden also knew Trump hadn't done any of the tough things he needed to do for America's Afghan allies who would be left to fight the war without U.S. or NATO forces in even a supporting role. Biden's top two advisers were his former Senate and vice presidential aides—Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, who were skilled at helping Biden do what he wanted done.

Both knew well that Biden was determined to withdraw all U.S. troops on a date certain, just as Trump had done. All three of them were quite public in explaining their options as if it was just a binary choice: withdraw or keep fighting an unwinnable forever war. So in April Biden announced he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, 2021, apparently thinking it was smart to use the 9/11 two-decade anniversary. Many others thought it was unwise and un-cute. The Taliban hated it and re-upped its war-making.

Then Biden made his real problem worse. To show his with-

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



drawal was proceeding successfully, he moved his final pullout date even earlier—to Aug. 31. The Taliban made Biden's choice as its demand deadline and desperate Afghans who included America's former civilian translators rushed to funnel frantically into the one small getaway site that America had selected: the one-runway Kabul airport.

Biden-Blinken-&-Sullivan had created conditions that became a tragic trap that may well have been avoided. Consider this: What if Biden had decided, even before April, not to set a specific date publicly—but commit to a total withdrawal at some unspecific time in autumn depending upon the safety situation on the ground. And what if, back in springtime, Team Biden also began moving aggressively yet quietly to begin extracting all its Afghan civilian allies who feared vengeance from a future victorious Taliban? Evacuate them family by family. No major high-visibility airlift, but with swift business-as-usual gratitude that would send them to the U.S., Europe, Guam, wherever.

Also, as I recently wrote, news coverage for well over a year showed the Afghan military collapsing as its unpaid, unfed and way under-armed troops were accepting Taliban buyouts and going home. So Team Biden absolutely needed to devise, back in April, a Worst Case Scenario exit plan: What would they do if the Afghan military swiftly collapsed and the corrupt Afghan government swiftly flew the Kabul coop?

Afghan women who saw the western way as their one chance at a real life would be re-enslaved in the Taliban version of Shari-aWorld as they saw their trusted Uncle Sam was also fleeing the Kabul coop. YouTube news videos would look, to all the world, like Fifty Shades of Red-White-&-Blue.

But savvy, careful and practical planning by Biden-Blinken-Sullivan, plus a Pentagon of policymaking military minds who were more skilled at telling toughest truths to power, could have at least minimized the present tragedy. Instead, in the first year of Biden's Shakespearian presidency, America's Afghanistan withdrawal became an ISIS-K target of terror.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trusting the Taliban to fight Islamic State

Reports from Washington and Kabul show the extent to which the Biden administration has been counting on the Taliban to facilitate the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan—and, apparently, to keep up the fight against IS-Khorasan, the local franchise of the Islamic State, after the Americans are gone. The White House and Pentagon believe that the new rulers in Kabul share their eagerness for a speedy evacuation: a “common purpose,” in the words of Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, commander of the United States Central Command. There is also an assumption that the Taliban have an implacable enmity toward IS-Khorasan.

These postulates are the basis for information-sharing between U.S. officials and their Taliban counterparts to ensure smooth passage of American citizens, green-card holders and Afghan allies through militant-controlled checkpoints outside the Kabul airport. Also, according to McKenzie, U.S. officials have for the past two weeks appraised Taliban commanders of threats to the airport, “so that they can actually do some searching out there for us.” The general has speculated that some attacks had been “thwarted” before Thursday’s twin blasts, which killed at least 75 Afghans and 13 American service personnel. IS-Khorasan has claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Taliban have condemned it.

But the assumptions underpinning the Biden administration’s decision-making in Afghanistan are, at the very least, highly questionable. It is not a given that the Taliban want a smooth U.S. withdrawal. Many in their ranks may be keen for a final chance to kill Americans, and will cheer the sight of their hated enemies badly bloodied as they scramble for the exits. The deaths of Afghans whom the Taliban regard as collaborators would not disturb their sleep.

The very nature of the Taliban makes trust untenable. That’s not the only reason it is dangerous to confide in the new rulers

of Kabul. It is even more delusional to rely on them to keep IS-Khorasan and other terrorist groups at bay.

Biden and his officials seem to think the Taliban are an organization in the conventional sense, with a leadership that can make rational decisions and cadres that faithfully follow orders. Repeat after me: The Taliban are an assemblage of factions and alliances, with different—and sometimes conflicting—motivations and priorities.

It is certainly true that many in the leadership regard IS-Khorasan as an enemy. The two groups have had bloody encounters, with heavy casualties on both sides. Many Taliban regard the IS-Khorasan as uninvited outsiders, distinct from honored guests like al Qaeda. In turn, IS-Khorasan propaganda portrays the Taliban as having gone soft, having compromised with the hated Americans in order to regain power.

But beneath their mutual hostility is a more complex web of relationships. While the IS-Khorasan leadership may mostly be made up of foreigners who arrived in Afghanistan from places like Syria and Iraq, they have recruited heavily from ranks of the Taliban itself. Whatever the disposition of the men at the top, foot-soldiers on both sides are liable to regard each other as brothers-in-arms.

The ramifications of this are not hard to imagine. In the worst case scenario, a couple of Taliban at a checkpoint let an IS-Khorasan suicide bomber through, with ensuing carnage and chaos. More generally, assurances from the Taliban that they are helping to prevent attacks on the airport must be regarded as suspect.

Information given to them about Afghans can hardly be regarded safe or confidential. There are already indications that the group, despite their promises of amnesty for those who worked with the previous dispensation, are conducting house-to-house searches for precisely those people.

Whatever the Taliban might do with people they regard as

By BOBBY GHOSH

Bloomberg Opinion



Bobby Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and Africa.

collaborators, imagine their fate if those lists fall into the hands of IS-Khorasan. Any Americans and Afghan allies who cannot make it out of the country this weekend must be prepared for the worst, as indeed must the Biden administration. (If the Americans were naïve to hand over information, the British embassy staff were just plain reckless. In their haste to evacuate, they apparently left behind details of local employees for the Taliban to find.)

If the loyalties of the Taliban’s lower orders is suspect, that goes double for their allies. Some, like the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. Some Pakistani jihadist groups maintain good relations with both sides.

Those mutual friends could come in handy if the Taliban, settling into power, decide to prioritize stability over conflict. Afghanistan’s history is replete with examples of extremist groups, upon taking Kabul, making expedient compromises with their political and ideological enemies. Even a short-lived cessation of hostilities between the Taliban and IS-Khorasan could have horrific consequences, for Afghans and the U.S. alike.

The Biden administration may think it can do business with the Taliban because it is an enemy of an enemy. But the Taliban and IS-Khorasan might make exactly the same calculation with respect to the U.S.

The Kabul airport attack should have brought Americans together

One of the most disturbing aspects of Thursday’s terrorist atrocity at Kabul’s airport is the reaction it failed to arouse. This act of stunning depravity should have reminded Americans that what they have in common as civilized people is much more important than what divides them. There’s little sign it did.

The anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is approaching, and one thinks back to the way people dealt with it. The idea that Americans and their friends around the world should come together to confront evil commanded overwhelming support. The actions that sprang from this conviction were sometimes ill-advised and, in the case of Iraq, disastrous; purpose forged in such circumstances isn’t necessarily wise. Still, the sense of standing together was a vital part of the spiritual recovery from a crushing blow. As a Briton living in London at the time, I vividly remember being caught up in it, and consoled by it.

What happened 20 years ago was vastly more shocking than the bombing in Kabul, of course. But one might nevertheless have expected that the cruelty of this attack—on people trying to flee, and U.S. soldiers ordered to stand down—would have rallied opinion. Instead, it was just more fodder for the country’s endless

and exhausting divisions. Republicans: This is the Biden we told you to expect. Democrats: Withdrawal was never going to be easy (and anyway Trump saddled us with the policy). For Americans invested in politics, it appears, the main question is what effect, if any, this slaughter will have on the midterm elections. In short, barely a moment’s deviation from business as usual.

A point of perfect absurdity has been reached when the political parties’ mutual loathing isn’t diminished by their agreement—as in this case—on basic policy. Former President Donald Trump cut a deal with the Taliban to facilitate a rapid American withdrawal, regardless of the wishes of the Afghan government and the U.S.’s NATO partners. President Joe Biden and the Democrats embraced this approach (including its disdain for allies and much of the heedless “America First” rhetoric that went with it). Whatever the rights and wrongs of the choice, Democrats and Republicans agreed about the main thing. Yet there’s no trace of acknowledging the shared ownership of the consequences.

Republicans ask voters to believe that Trump would have executed the policy more effectively, Democrats that it was in fact well executed under the circumstances. The claims are equally ridiculous, but so what? Political advantage is at stake. At a time like this,

to work with allies to protect freedoms in Afghanistan, the Afghan government and its security forces were further weakened. Hence the rapid collapse.

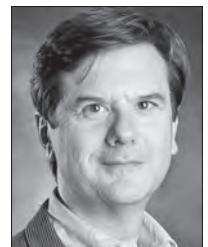
So while it’s surely tempting for Republicans to use this debacle for political gain and to try to render the Biden presidency a single-term affair, the reality is that the mistakes here have been bipartisan. And few Republicans have openly repudiated the Trump deal.

For centuries, Afghanistan has been a quagmire for nations such as Britain, Russia and the United States. Biden’s belief that it had to end, that it was not worth more American lives over many more years, is entirely defensible.

But now he has to face, and own, the inconvenient truth that terrorists love to fill a power vacuum. They cannot be allowed to prevail. And the fight against them will need to be waged not just by the U.S., but by its long-standing allies. Biden’s rhetoric

By CLIVE CROOK

Bloomberg Opinion



Clive Crook is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and writes editorials on economics, finance and politics. He was chief Washington commentator for the *Financial Times*, a correspondent and editor for the *Economist* and a senior editor at the *Atlantic*.

denouncing the enemy—fellow Americans—is all that matters.

The best case for electing Biden as president was that he might begin to repair a bitterly divided country. He hasn’t so much as tried. His defense of the debacle in Kabul was fully worthy of Trump in its narcissistic refusal to admit error and willingness to blame others. Republican leaders, still in thrall to the fraud who hijacked their party, have nothing valuable to say in response. Their only role is to make matters worse. Somebody once said that a nation divided against itself cannot stand. If adversaries as repugnant as the perpetrators of the atrocity in Kabul cannot unite this country, one begins to despair for its future.

AFGHANISTAN

From Page 8

soil but only a fool would see such a move as impossible. The group has often encouraged so-called lone wolves.

Thanks to the poorly planned withdrawal and evacuation efforts, ISIS-K did not need to come stateside to find U.S. targets, given that members of the armed forces were working their fingers to the bone trying to get America’s Afghan allies to safety and a better life, where they would not have to fear government oppression and retribution.

Biden hardly is the only president to blame for this mess. There is no question that President Donald Trump’s intemperate deal with the Taliban reduced the options open to his successor, not least because it signaled to the Taliban that all it had to do was sit and wait. By telegraphing a lack of U.S. will to continue

needs to become more inclusive of those allies.

U.S. media in recent days has portrayed the long engagement in Afghanistan as reflective of a naive and hubristic assumption that Western democracy can be exported. Some have portrayed the Taliban as changed rulers, newly dedicated to moderation and willing to respect, say, the rights of girls and women to an education and to full participation in society.

Time will tell there and we think any such possibility will require the judicious application of America’s leverage.

But an inconvenient truth blew up Thursday in America’s face. This was the message: There are those to the right of the Taliban who specialize in terrorism.

In Afghanistan and beyond, the war on terror is far from over. All nations who believe in freedom, safety and democracy will have to reengage. There can be no withdrawal from that.

Business

Asian tourism sees ups, downs in second year of pandemic

From the Great Wall to the picturesque Kashmir valley, Asia's tourist destinations are looking to domestic visitors to get them through the COVID-19 pandemic's second year.

With international travel heavily restricted, foreign tourists can't enter many countries and locals can't get out. In the metropolis of Hong Kong, glamping and staycations have replaced trips abroad for at least some of its 7.4 million residents.

Across the Asia-Pacific region, international tourist ar-

rivals were down 95% in the first five months of the year, compared to the same period before the pandemic in 2019, according to the U.N. World Tourism Organization.

New variants of the virus loom—a constant threat to any recovery in even domestic tourism. Warnings of a possible third wave in India worry Imraan Ali, whose houseboat on Kashmir's Dal Lake is his only source of income.

"Since we are expecting a good influx of tourists, we don't want that to be affected," he said.



Flower vendors sit outside Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand on Aug. 3, 2021. AP

Bangkok's bustle goes quiet

Erawan Shrine in the center of Bangkok once bustled with foreign tourists and locals making offerings day and night. Today, it is eerily quiet. Only a handful of people buy incense or flowers from the vendors who set up stalls outside.

"We are still here because we don't know what else to do," said one, Ruedewan Thapjul.

As Thailand battles a punishing COVID-19 surge with nearly 20,000 new cases every day, people who depend on tourism struggle in what was one of the most-visited cities in the world, with 20 million visitors in the year before the pandemic.

Suthipong Pheunphiphop, the

president of the Thai Travel Agents Association, urged the government to commit to its plan to reopen the country to foreign tourists in October.

Currently, the streets are all but empty in Bangkok's Siam Square shopping district.

Passavee Kraidejudompaisarn, the third-generation owner of a popular noodle shop, wiped away tears as she talked about her fears of losing the family business.

Previously, the 60-year-old restaurant would be filled with locals and foreign tourists, bringing in about \$2,000 a day. Now, she said, she earns a little more than \$2 on some days.



A Kashmiri boatman rows his boat carrying Indian tourists at a market in the interior of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir on Aug. 2, 2021. AP

India cautious as outbreak recedes

Tourists are returning to the valleys and mountains in Indian-controlled Kashmir, as infections in the Himalayan region and nationwide come down after a deadly second wave earlier this year.

The "shikaras," or traditional Kashmiri houseboats, are back on the calm waters of Dal Lake as Indians travel at home. India is reporting about 30,000 new coronavirus cases a day, down from a peak of 400,000 in May but still enough for many countries to restrict travelers from India.

Nihaarika Rishabh said she and her husband were relieved to final-

ly get away from their home in the city of Agra for their honeymoon, after their wedding was postponed during the second wave. The vacation in Kashmir has helped calm their nerves after months of the pandemic, she said.

Ali, the houseboat owner, is happy that the number of visitors has gone up. "We have been suffering from past two years," he said. "Our livelihood depends on tourism."

But mountainous areas like Kashmir have seen an uptick in infections as the number of visitors rises, fueling worries about a third wave.

Chinese stay in China

Strict virus control measures have allowed China to return to relatively normal life. The number of tourists visiting Beijing in June and July tripled compared to the same period last year, while revenue quadrupled, according to Trip.com, China's largest online travel booking platform.

"I personally feel very safe," Olaya Ezuidazu, a Spanish national living in Beijing, said on a recent visit to the Great Wall.

But even China is not immune to the delta variant. Outbreaks in July and August prompted authorities to suspend flights and trains to af-

fected cities. Parks and museums reduced the number of visitors to 60% of capacity, down from 75% previously.

Phil Ma felt the resulting dent on tourism at his café in a traditional "hutong" neighborhood, steps away from Tiananmen Square in central Beijing. "It is obvious during the three or four days from the weekend to today that the number of guests has decreased a lot," he said.

The alley outside his café was quiet, in contrast to the line that formed for a cup of coffee during a major holiday in May.



Visitors wearing face masks look at souvenir shops in a neighborhood popular with tourists in central Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021. AP



A young couple with their dog spend their time outside an Indiana-style tent at We Camp, a glamping site located in Yuen Long, Hong Kong on Aug. 19, 2021. AP

Glamping in Hong Kong

The difficulty of traveling abroad has made glamping—or glamourous camping—popular in Hong Kong.

Berina Tam and Vincy Lee went with We Camp, a campsite located in Yuen Long, a rural area in the north of Hong Kong.

"It's actually a good opportunity for us to really, to try to explore Hong Kong a bit more," Tam said.

Many glamping sites provide clean beds, showering facilities and

barbeque sites for campers to grill kebabs and chicken wings. The typical charge is \$65 per person a night.

Bill Lau, the founder of Hong Kong travel platform Holimood, said that glamping offers an alternative for those who find camping too primitive.

"Families and couples need to find somewhere to go during weekends," he said. "If we are trying to recreate the experience of traveling, it must be an overnight experience." (AP)

DUBROVNIK, Croatia (AP)—Beaches along Croatia's Adriatic Sea coastline are swarming with people. Guided tours are fully booked, restaurants are packed and sailboats were chartered well in advance.

Summer tourism has exceeded even the most optimistic expectations in Croatia this year. Once fearful that the coronavirus pandemic would discourage people from traveling, Croatia's tourism industry was caught by surprise.

"It's much better—it's almost like 2020 never happened," said Josip Crnecovic, a tour guide in Dubrovnik, a southern city known for its Old Town and nightlife that is Croatia's most popular destination.

The Balkan country ex-

perienced four years of war in the 1990s, but before the pandemic had become a top vacation spot for European and American visitors who appreciated its small towns and scores of islands offering natural beauty, local seafood and recreation in comparatively uncrowded settings.

The success of the summer season carries strong implications for Croatia's economy, which is among the weakest in the European Union. Tourism accounts for up to 20% of gross domestic product, and visitor spending is essential to the incomes of locals who rent lodging or run other tourism-linked businesses.

While people here prepared

for this year to be better than last because of the advent of COVID-19 vaccines, the tourism minister described the July and August demand for getaways in Croatia as "remarkable." As of Aug. 10, overnight stays were at 69% of the record number seen in the 2019 season, tourism min-

ister Nikolina Brnjac said.

The tourism revival is clearly visible in Dubrovnik, known as the "pearl" of the coastline, famous for its fortified, walled medieval city that is a UNESCO protected area and which served as a set for the popular "Game of Thrones" series. The main street in Old Town buzzes with people as tour groups

Toni Dugandzic, a waiter at the restaurant Gusta Me, said the influx of tourists surprised many town residents and business people following last year's poor season. Restaurant owners didn't expect it and therefore didn't hire enough staff in time, he said. "We work a little bit more because we were not prepared regarding human resources,"

Dugandzic said.

Health officials organized vaccination drives for people with jobs in tourism and kept some crowd limits in place. About 40% of the adult population in the country of 4.2 million has been vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Daily reported cases have

Most of the sailboats in the crammed marina in the central Adriatic town of Biograd were already booked.

"Everybody is looking to have a boat!" exclaimed Marin Katicin, the CEO of charter company Pitter Yachting. "We have no boats anymore!"

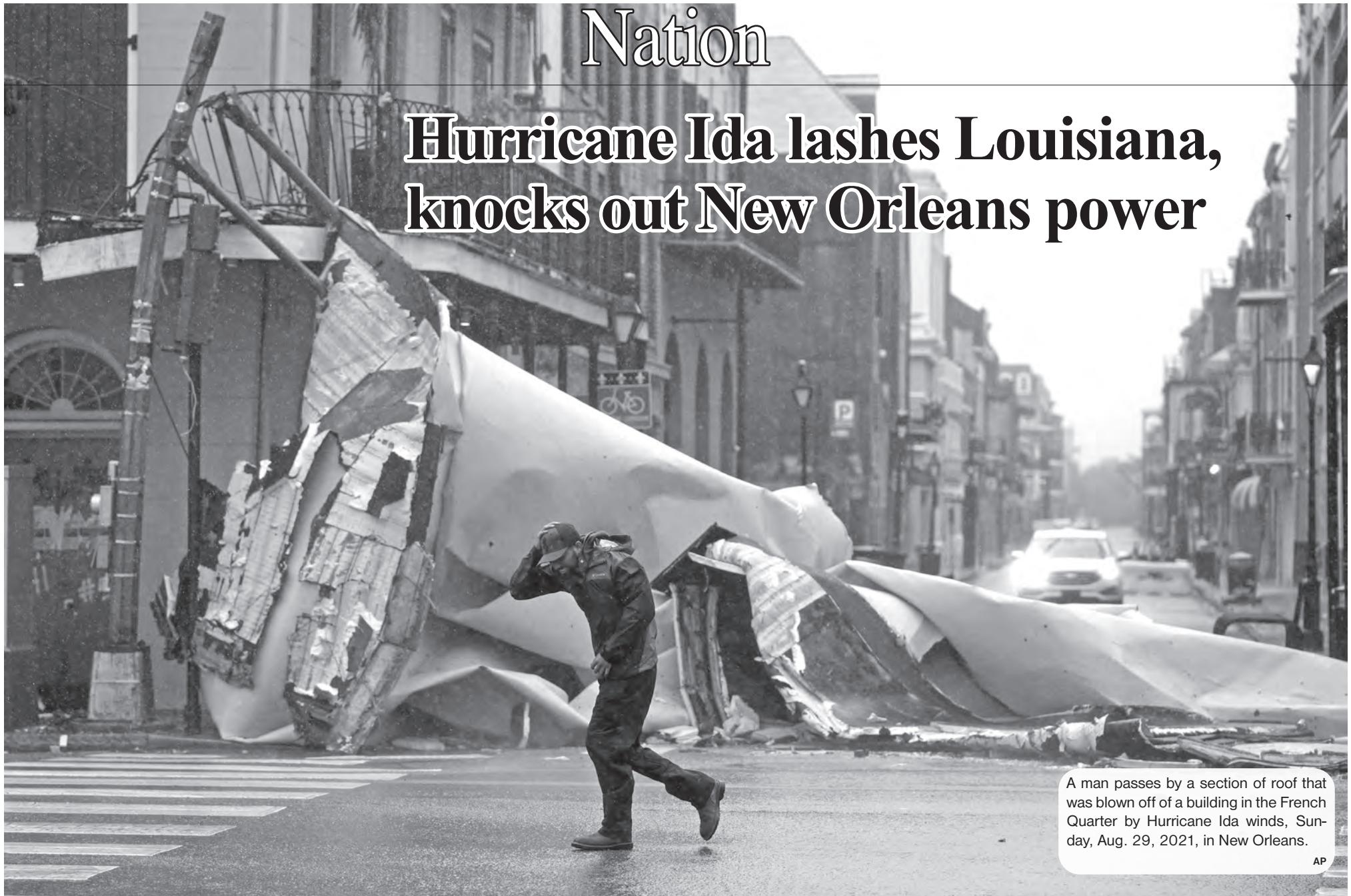
Kate Redder, a visitor from Germany, chartered a boat with her friends. Sailing around Croatia provides a feeling of independence, a better view of the country's stunning scenery and a way to self-isolate on the water, she explained.

"I think it is just safer than going to a hotel where you meet different people all the time," Redder said. "So you are safe. We are only here as a family and with our skipper."

Croatia thrilled at summer season success despite COVID-19

Nation

Hurricane Ida lashes Louisiana, knocks out New Orleans power



A man passes by a section of roof that was blown off of a building in the French Quarter by Hurricane Ida winds, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, in New Orleans.

AP

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Hurricane Ida blasted ashore Sunday as one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the U.S., knocking out power to all of New Orleans, blowing roofs off buildings and reversing the flow of the Mississippi River as it rushed from the Louisiana coast into one of the nation's most important industrial corridors.

The hurricane was blamed for at least one death: a person found dead following a report of a fallen tree on a home in Prairieville, the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office said on Facebook. The person, who

was not identified, was pronounced dead. Prairieville is a suburb of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's capital city.

The power outage in New Orleans heightened the city's vulnerability to flooding and left hundreds of thousands of people without air conditioning and refrigeration in sweltering summer heat.

Ida—a Category 4 storm—hit on the same date Hurricane Katrina ravaged Louisiana and Mississippi 16 years earlier, coming ashore about 45 miles (72 kilometers) west of where Category 3 Katrina first struck land. Ida's 150-mph

(230 kph) winds tied it for the fifth-strongest hurricane to ever hit the mainland U.S. It dropped hours later to a Category 1 storm with maximum winds of 95 mph (155 kph) as it crawled inland, its eye about 45 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.

Significant flooding was reported late Sunday night in LaPlace, a community adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain, meteorologists in New Orleans said. Many people took to social media, pleading for boat rescues as the water rose.

The rising ocean swamped the barrier island of Grand

Isle as landfall came just to the west at Port Fourchon. Ida made a second landfall about two hours later near Galliano. The hurricane was churning through the far southern Louisiana wetlands, with the more than 2 million people living in and around New Orleans and Baton Rouge under threat.

"This is going to be much stronger than we usually see and, quite frankly, if you had to draw up the worst possible path for a hurricane in Louisiana, it would be some-

thing very, very close to what we're seeing," Gov. John Bel Edwards told The Associated Press.

People in Louisiana woke up to a monster storm after Ida's top winds grew by 45 mph (72 kph) in five hours as the hurricane moved through some of the warmest ocean water in the world in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

The entire city of New Orleans late Sunday was without power, according to city officials. The city's power sup-

plier—Entergy—confirmed that the only power in the city was coming from generators, the city's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness said on Twitter. The message included a screen shot that cited "catastrophic transmission damage" for the power failure.

The city relies on Entergy for backup power for the pumps that remove storm water from city streets. Rain from Ida is expected to test that pump system.

US says drone kills IS bombers targeting Kabul airport

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A U.S. drone strike blew up a vehicle carrying "multiple suicide bombers" from Afghanistan's Islamic State affiliate on Sunday before they could attack the ongoing military evacuation at Kabul's international airport, American officials said. An Afghan official said three children were killed in the strike.

The forecast did not offer optimism: triple-digit temperatures were possible and the extreme heat was expected to last several days. A red flag warning for critical fire conditions was issued for Monday and Tuesday across the Northern Sierra.

The blaze that broke out August 14 was 19% contained after burning nearly 245 square miles (635 square kilometers)—an area larger than Chicago. More than 600 structures have been destroyed and at least 18,000 more were under threat.

A statement from U.S. Central Command said that the U.S. is aware of reports of civilian casualties and is assessing the results of the strike.

Navy Capt. William Urban, spokesman for Central Command, said that "substantial and powerful" subsequent explosions resulted from the destruction of the vehicle, which may have caused additional casualties.

The U.S. State Department released a statement signed by around 100 countries, as well as NATO and the European Union, saying they had received "assurances" from the Taliban that people with travel documents would still be able to leave the country. The Taliban have said they will allow normal travel after the U.S. withdrawal is completed on Tuesday and they assume control of the airport.

The Afghan official spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns. Witnesses to the drone strike

Lake Tahoe threatened by massive fire, more ordered to flee

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP)—Fire officials ordered more evacuations around the Tahoe Basin Sunday evening as crews dealt with a two-week old blaze they said was "more aggressive than anticipated," and continued to edge toward the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe.

"Today's been a rough day and there's no bones about it," said Jeff Marsoleis, forest supervisor for El Dorado National Forest. A few days ago, he thought crews could halt the Caldor Fire's eastern progress, but "today it let loose."

Flames churned through mountains just a few miles

southwest of the Tahoe Basin, where thick smoke sent tourists packing at a time when summer vacations would usually be in full swing ahead of the Labor Day weekend.

"To put it in perspective, we've been seeing about a half-mile of movement on the fire's perimeter each day for the last couple of weeks, and today, this has already moved at 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) on us, with no sign that it's starting to slow down," said Cal Fire Division Chief Eric Schwab.

Some areas of the Northern California terrain are so rugged that crews had to carry fire hoses by hand from

Highway 50 as they sought to douse spot fires caused by erratic winds.

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said it targeted two cars parked in a residential building near the airport, killing and wounding several civilians. Officials had initially reported a separate rocket attack on a building near the airport, but it turned out to be the same event.

According to a senior U.S. official, the U.S. military drone fired a Hellfire missile at a vehicle in a compound between two buildings after individuals were seen loading explosives into the trunk. The official said there was an initial explosion caused by the missile, followed by a much larger fireball, believed to be the result of the substantial amount of explosives inside the vehicle. The U.S. believes that two Islamic State group individuals who were targeted were killed.

Asia

Passenger boat in Bangladesh sinks after collision, 22 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh

(AP)—At least 22 people died when a Bangladeshi passenger boat sank with more than 100 aboard, and the driver of a cargo vessel suspected of colliding with the boat was arrested, officials said Saturday.

The boat sank Friday evening in a large body of water in the eastern district of Brahmanbari, 82 kilometers (51 miles) east of

the capital, Dhaka.

No passengers were believed missing after nearly 24 hours of search efforts, said Emon Sarker, a duty officer with the district's fire service and civil defense, who also provided the final death toll. That's after initial reports said around 50 passengers were missing, citing local officials and media.

"Maybe many swam to

safety. There was no passenger list. It happens here. Today, nobody came to us looking for any missing people," Sarker said by phone.

Bangladesh is a delta nation where water transport is heavily used to move people and goods. But deadly accidents are common due to unskilled operation and poor enforcement of safety rules.

The country is crisscrossed by 230 rivers, and during the monsoon season some low-lying areas fill with water and are also used by boats.

Sarker said the sunken boat was still submerged and would be brought to shore Sunday.

The cargo boat's driver and two assistants were caught by locals in the Bijoyanagar area and turned over to the authorities, said Anisur Rahman, district police superintendent.

Local police official Imranul Islam initially provided

the figure of 21 dead, speaking by phone late Friday. Survivors said about 100 people were aboard. Local news reports, quoting the area's top government administrator, Hayat-Ud-Dola, said about 50 people were missing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Zealand has first big case drop in 2 weeks

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—The number of new coronavirus cases in New Zealand has fallen significantly for the first time since an outbreak was detected nearly two weeks ago. Officials hope it is an indication that a strict nationwide lockdown might be working to halt the virus's spread. Health authorities on Monday reported 53 new community cases, down from 83 a day earlier. Some of that decrease may have been attributable to fewer tests being completed. New Zealand's government is pursuing an elimination strategy in which it

tries to stamp out the virus entirely whenever it appears. The government put the country into the toughest form of lockdown after the first case of the current delta-variant outbreak was detected Aug. 17.

Japan aims for full vaccinations by this fall

TOKYO—Taro Kono, the Japanese minister in charge of the vaccine rollout, promised Sunday a timely administering of booster shots for the coronavirus, as the nation aims to fully vaccinate its population by October or November. He said Pfizer and Moderna booster shots will arrive early

next year, in time for medical workers and the elderly, who were prioritized and mostly got their second shots by July. "Japan is aiming for 80% vaccination levels," Kono said on a nationally broadcast Fuji TV show. A digital system for proof of vaccination will be available later this year, he added. Japan has lagged among developed nations on vaccinations, with its fully vaccinated now at about 43%. Hospitals are getting swamped, and more than 118,000 people infected with the coronavirus are waiting at home, according to the health ministry. Japan has recorded about 15,800 COVID-related deaths.



'CAR MOB'

A long line of cars, trucks and motorbikes wended its way Sunday through the Thai capital, Bangkok, in a mobile protest against the government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. The protesters on wheels hope their nonviolent action, dubbed a "car mob," can help force the ouster of Prayuth, whom they accuse of botching the campaign against the coronavirus.

AP

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

†BONIFACIO JONES CASTRO

KNOWN AS "BACHU"

SUNRISE: JUNE 1, 1957 SUNSET: AUGUST 14, 2021

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Manuel Manibusan Castro and †Maria Jones Castro

Brothers and Sisters: †Margarita J. Castro, †Manuel J. Castro, †Juan J. Castro, †Juana J. Castro-Dela Cruz, †Joaquin J. Castro, †Bernadita C. Manalo

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children and Grandchildren:

Bonifacio J. & Julie A. Castro (Keona Collete A. Camacho, Imani Bonifacio Castro, Kekoa Keoni A. Castro)

Katelyn Delos Reyes & Luis L. Pangilinan (Karay Fitial and Jose Deleon Guerro, Rayanna Fitial and Ayen Ganiban)

Rose Delos Reyes & Brian L. Ruben (Byron Ruben and Mikita Aldan)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-laws:

Ramon & Josepha DLR Kapileo and Family

Children of †Margarita J. Castro

Joseph W. & Marilyn P. Jones and Family

Children of †Manuel J. Castro

†Juan J. & Nancy S. Castro and Family

†Antonio L. & Celina C. Kaipat and Family

Children of †Juan S. (Doi) & †Juana J. Castro-Dela Cruz

†Joaquin J. & Elisa M. Castro and Family

Pedro DLG. & †Bernadita C. Manalo and family

Daniel J. & Dorothy M. Castro and Family

Rosita J. Castro and Family

Benjamin J. & Vivian Q. Castro and Family

Eddie J. & Rosa O. Castro and Family

†Bachu is additionally survived by numerous loving and caring, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at 6:00 PM

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Santa Remedios Church

Tuesday, Thursday – San Roque Church

On Saturday, September 04, 2021. Our Beloved †Bachu will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to San Roque Church at 7:30 am. Responso will take place upon arrival of remains followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at Tanapag Cemetery where we shall bid our final farewell and where he will be at peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you, Un Dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMAGUON YAN I FAMILIA

World



Haitian aid workers unload food from a VM-22 Osprey at Jeremie Airport, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, in Jeremie, Haiti.

AP

TO REACH QUAKE-HIT AREAS

US airlifts aid to Haiti

JEREMIE, Haiti (AP)—U.S. military aircraft are now ferrying food, tarps and other material into southern Haiti amid a shift in the international relief effort to focus on helping people in the areas hardest hit by the recent earthquake to make it through the hurricane season.

Aircraft flying out of the capital, Port-au-Prince, arrived throughout the day Saturday in the mostly rural, mountainous southern peninsula that was the epicenter of the Aug. 14 earthquake. In Jeremie, people waved and cheered as a Marine Corps unit from North Carolina descended in a tilt-rotor Osprey with pallets of rice, tarps and other supplies.

Most of the supplies, however, were not destined for Jeremie. They were for distribution to remote mountain communities where landslides destroyed homes and the small plots of the many subsistence

farmers in the area, said Patrick Tiné of Haiti Bible Mission, one of several groups coordinating the delivery of aid.

"They lost their gardens, they lost their animals," Tiné said as he took a break from helping unload boxes of rice. "The mountains slid down and they lost everything."

At the request of the Haitian government, getting as much help to such people as fast as possible is now the focus of the \$32 million U.S. relief effort, said Tim Callaghan, a disaster response team leader for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In the immediate aftermath of the magnitude 7.2 earthquake, which killed more than 2,200 people and damaged or destroyed more than 100,000 homes, the focus was on search and rescue.

That was complicated by heavy rain from Tropical Storm Grace as well as earth-

quake damage to roads and bridges, in an area where the infrastructure was in bad shape to begin with. The threat of gangs, in a country still reeling from the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, also made it hard to distribute aid. As a result, many Haitians had grown increasingly impatient with relief efforts.

"We're just trying to get as much material out to the most affected areas as fast as we can. If you do that, then the frustration level goes down," Callaghan said over the roar of helicopters at the Port-au-Prince airport, where U.S. troops and civilian aid workers labored to load aircraft with pallets in the hot sun.

That is where the U.S. military comes into play. Troops under the direction of Miami-based U.S. Southern Command have so far delivered more than 265,000 pounds of relief assistance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tropical Storm Nora hugs Mexico's coast; 1 dead, 7 missing

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Hurricane Nora caused floods and landslides along Mexico's Pacific coast Sunday, while making landfall again and passing just inland of the Mazatlan resort area before veering into the Gulf of California and weakening into a tropical storm. Communities in the coastal states of Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco experienced heavy rain and rough surf as the storm moved northward hugging the shoreline. The Jalisco state government said a teenager from Spain died Saturday night when a hotel partially collapsed

in Puerto Vallarta amid severe flooding when Nora passed by the tourist city as a Category 1 hurricane. A woman was also missing there after her car was swept away. Officials said flooding damaged 500 homes and two people were injured in a landslide. Six fishermen from the state of Guerrero were listed as missing at sea.

Flames consume high-rise in Milan; residents evacuated

MILAN (AP)—Italian firefighters on Sunday battled a high-rise blaze in Milan that spread rapidly through a 20-story residential building and poured black smoke into

the air. Residents were hurriedly evacuated. Mayor Giuseppe Sala said there were no reports of injuries or deaths, but that firefighters were kicking down doors, apartment by apartment, to make sure there were no victims. "We are sure that there was time to get out, but until the controls are finished, we cannot be entirely sure," Sala told reporters at the scene. He said about 20 people were evacuated without incident. The 60-meter (nearly 200-foot) tall building, part of a recent development project, was designed to look like the keel of a ship and included an aluminum sail on its roof, which burned and fell to the street in pieces.

Overdrive

Demand prompts Ford to hike production of F-150 Lightning

By JAMIE L. LAREAU
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Reports that Ford Motor Co. will double its production target for the F-150 Lightning full-sized electric pickup are good news to car dealer Jim Seavitt.

At his Village Ford in Dearborn, Mich., orders for the Lightning pickup are on course to challenge those for Ford's new Bronco SUV.

On Tuesday, Seavitt said overall he has 90 orders for the Lightning. He was driving to the airport to catch a flight to Dallas for a meeting with Ford's management, where he expected an update on the Lightning launch.

"We've had tremendous response to that vehicle not only because it's electric, but because the base is \$39,000 and then you take off the \$7,500 tax credit and it makes it a very attractive vehicle for a lot of reasons," Seavitt said.

The starting sticker price for the base model Lightning is \$39,974, Ford said. A more equipped mid-series starts at \$52,974. That compares to the 2022 GMC Hummer EV Edition 1, which starts at \$105,595.

On Monday, Reuters reported that Ford plans to double its production target for the electric pickup based on the robust early demand. Reuters cited several people and suppliers familiar with the plans.

MOTORMOUTH: Hitting the brakes

By BOB WEBER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: With the advent of adaptive cruise control, my question is, do the brake lights come on when the system detects a need to slow down, especially when it is somewhat abrupt?

A: Yes, they do. Any time the brakes are applied, either by you or the computer, the brake lamps will illuminate. Adaptive cruise control (ACC) will apply the brakes when exceeding the cruise setting when going downhill and the brake lights will illuminate. If the car slows down using engine compression (lifting your foot from the gas) the brake lights will not come on.

Q: Your recent column discussed downshifting vs. braking. Without braking on either a car or motorcycle, the brake lights don't illuminate. A friend, a closet engineer, helped his son install an inertia switch that lights up the brake light on his motorcycle, so when he downshifts to slow down, common on motorcycles, he is warning followers. Should be standard, I would think.

A: Cool idea but probably not approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Q: When my daughter complained about her painful headrest, I remembered my teen years and all those beautiful hot rods the guys were creating. I suggested taking her car to an auto upholstery shop. They were able to peel off the seat back covers and readjust the headrest.

E.R., Bloomington, Minnesota

A: Auto upholstery shops can not only repair ripped, torn and stained stuff, they are the best source of custom work such as rolled and pleated seats. They are also often a less expensive option than factory installed leather.

Q: I have a 2020 Civic and was using the lane assist feature. The main road took a long sweeping curve to the left, but there was also

The automaker will start selling the pickup early next year and plans to spend an additional \$850 million to meet that target, Reuters wrote.

Ford didn't dispute the Reuters report and sent the Free Press this statement: "We are excited with customer demand for the F-150 Lightning and already have 120,000 customer reservations, and we will continue to look for ways to break constraints and meet customer demand."

In June, Ford confirmed it had reached 100,000 reservations since the Lightning's global debut this past spring at world headquarters in Dearborn.

Reuters reported that Ford intends a production of 80,000 in 2024, up from its previous target of more than 40,000. The ramp to the new target includes building about 15,000 next year after the spring launch and 55,000 in 2023.

After the second-generation Lightning launches in late 2025, the annual target is about 160,000, Reuters wrote.

The bigger production goals are based on the strong pre-launch demand for the vehicle, especially with commercial customers. Seavitt said Ford leaders told the dealers, based on orders, the production target for 2022 is sold out.

MOTORMOUTH: Hitting the brakes

a Y with a much smaller road straight ahead. The solid white line on the right shoulder was painted about 80% across the smaller road's right lane. When I crossed over the solid white line going straight, the lane assist feature almost ripped the steering wheel out of my hand and slammed on the brakes.

A: Lane departure warning (LDW) systems provide an audible and/or tactile warning. Lane keeping assist (LKA) takes control of the steering. A Honda CR-V owner wrote to Consumer Reports, saying that LKA is unreliable. "A lot of times it refuses to detect the highway lanes especially at nighttime and even in rainy weather. It's also unpredictable with some moderate turns on the highway." A Honda Odyssey driver added, "I have found the lane assist feature troublesome. It detects lane departures when there are none and gets confused by some line markings." You can deactivate the Honda lane keeping assist system by pressing the "main" button on the steering wheel until LKAS is displayed.

Q: My wife and I want to take a 3,500-mile road trip in November in our Lexus 470 that has 160,000 miles on it. Although the vehicle has been well maintained over the years, I am concerned about certain parts failing like ignition, fuel pump, water pump, hoses, etc. Can you provide some advice as to whether I should or shouldn't take the vehicle and if so, what I should I have my mechanic do to prepare for the trip?

A: Today, 160,000 miles is nothing. Parts and components seemingly last forever, at least 200,000 miles. The only thing I would suggest is an oil change, so you won't have to interrupt your trip if the reminder comes on.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Arc de Triomphe to be wrapped for posthumous work by Christo

PARIS (AP)—The Arc de Triomphe has seen parades, protests and tourists galore, but never before has the war monument in Paris been wrapped in silver and blue recyclable polypropylene fabric. That's about to happen next month in a posthumous art installation designed by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

"Christo has wrapped museums, parliaments as in Germany, but a monument like this? Not really. This is the first time. This is the first monument of this importance and scale that he has done," Vladimir Yavachev, the late collaborating couple's nephew, told The Associated Press.

Preparations have already

started on the Napoleon-era arch, where workers are covering statues to protect them from the wrapping.

The idea for "L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped," was formed in 1961, when Christo and Jeanne-Claude lived in Paris. Jeanne-Claude died in 2009, and in spite of Christo's death in May 2020, the project carried on.

"He wanted to complete this project. He made us promise him that we will do it," Yavachev told The Associated Press.

It was to be realized last fall, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the installation.

The 14 million-euro (\$16.4 million) project is being self-

financed through the sale of Christo's preparatory stud-

ies, drawings, scale models, and other pieces of work,

Yavachev said.

Visitors to the foot of the Arc



Cranes operate at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021.

AP

de Triomphe during the installation, scheduled for Sept. 18 to Oct. 3, will be able to touch the fabric, and those climbing to the top will step on it when they reach the roof terrace, as intended by the artists.

Born in Bulgaria in 1935, Christo Vladimirov Javacheff met Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon, born in Morocco on the exact same day as him, in Paris in 1958.

The artists were known for elaborate, temporary creations that involved blanketing familiar public places with fabric, such as Berlin's Reichstag and Paris' Pont Neuf bridge, and creating giant site-specific installations, such as a series of 7,503 gates in New York City's Central Park and the 24.5-mile "Running Fence" in California.

Search underway for a century-old painting used in CT Mass

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—A painting used in the annual celebration of Mass to honor La Madonna di Canneto, which translates to Our Lady of Canneto, has gone missing in Connecticut.

Descendants from the Italian village of Settefrati gather yearly to pay homage to their ancestral home, the Stamford Advocate reported. During the yearly gathering, the painting is displayed on a raised altar decorated with flower arrangements.

Antonia D'Amico, president of the Madonna Di Canneto Society in Stamford, said the painting went missing from the Sacred Heart Church and has asked the public to help find it.

"The painting just means

so much to our community and we just want to know what happened. It's been with us for a very long time, and it's very meaningful to us. ... It's not about the money, it's about what it means to us," she said.

The painting has been the centerpiece for the celebration since 1931 when the Settefrate Social Club—the host of the Mass—was founded in Stamford.

The 6-foot (2-meter) painting depicts a young shepherdess kneeling in prayer side-by-side with an angel before the Lady Madonna.

During the yearly celebration, people typically kneel before the painting, which is in homage to a local legend in the greater Lazio region, and offer silent prayers.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Candyman" hooked the top spot at the North American box office.

The Universal Pictures film starring Yahya Abdul-Mateen II impressively pulled in more than \$22.3 million through a quiet weekend despite concerns over

the delta variant. The R-rated horror movie, co-written by Jordan Peele and directed by Nia DaCosta, delves into an urban legend that believes if someone repeats "Candyman" five times in front of a mirror, that person would summon the hook-handed killer.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed Asner, the burly and prolific character actor who became a star in middle age as the gruff but lovable newsman Lou Grant, first in the hit comedy "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and later in the drama "Lou Grant," died Sunday. He was 91.

Asner's representative con-

firmed the actor's death in an email to The Associated Press. Asner's official Twitter account included a note from his children: "We are sorry to say that our beloved patriarch passed away this morn-

ing peacefully. Words cannot express the sadness we feel. With a kiss on your head—Goodnight dad. We love you."

Built like the football lineman he once was, the balding Asner was a journeyman actor in films and TV

when he was hired in 1970 to play Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." For seven seasons he was the rumpled boss to Moore's ebullient Mary Richards (He called her "Mary," she called him "Mr. Grant") at the fictional Minneapolis TV newsroom where both worked. Later, he would play the role for five years on "Lou Grant."



Asner

Friend's constant advice on all things begins to grate

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend from college I'm really close to, but they have begun an annoying habit I need help addressing. We live more than 1,000 miles apart, and over the past six months, I've noticed that my friend has been giving me unsolicited advice on daily tasks that don't concern them. At first it didn't bother me. Now it's happening three or four times a week.

I think they mean well, but the "friendly" reminders are beginning to come across as condescending. Some examples: If I mention what I'm making for dinner, I'll be reminded to make sure the chicken is cooked to the correct temperature. I have a vacation planned, and I was just reminded that in order to go I need to have flights booked.

I'm afraid I may be overreacting, which is why I haven't said anything. However, these constant reminders are frustrating and leave me with the impression that my friend thinks I'm stupid or incapable of taking care of myself. What's your advice on how to handle this?

NOT A KID AND NOT STUPID

DEAR NOT: A way to handle it would be to ask your friend why the advice was being offered. If you say you're making chicken for dinner and you are advised to be sure

it's cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees, calmly ask why the person felt it was necessary to say it. The same goes for your travel plans and any other unsolicited advice you receive. If you ask the question, you may find that your old friend isn't questioning your intelligence, but simply trying to be helpful.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My niece is getting married. This has been a very stressful time for her family. My sister calls me in tears every night because of the hurtful things her daughter has said to her. Until now, they had a good relationship. I know weddings can be a nightmare for families, even those who are close, because the bride can turn into a "bridezilla." It is HER wedding, although my sister is paying for everything.

Her daughter and the fiance are in their 30s and have well-paying jobs but are very happy to have my sister foot the bill. Sometimes I want to shake my niece and tell her to grow up and show some respect. Is there anything I can do to help my sister other than listen and be there for her? I'm getting worried about her health because of the stress, and she refuses to take care of herself.

FEELING HELPLESS IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR FEELING HELPLESS: I am sure you are aware that most couples in their 30s who have well-paying jobs foot the bill for their own weddings. Your sister has created this monster with her checkbook. At this point, the most helpful thing you can do for her is what you have been doing—letting her vent so she doesn't blow a gasket from the pressure.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

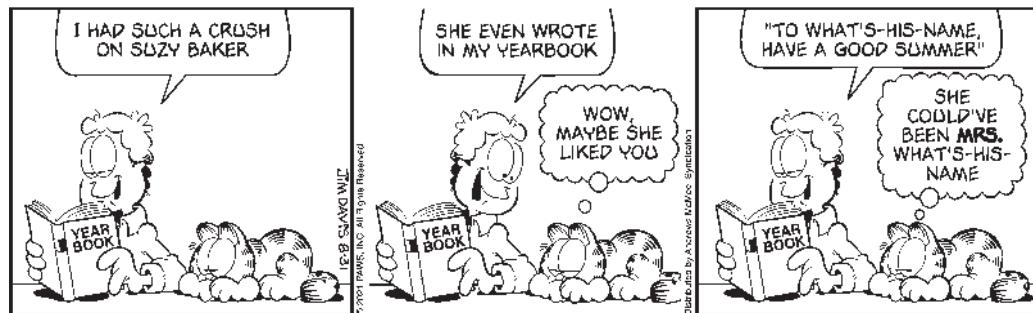
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



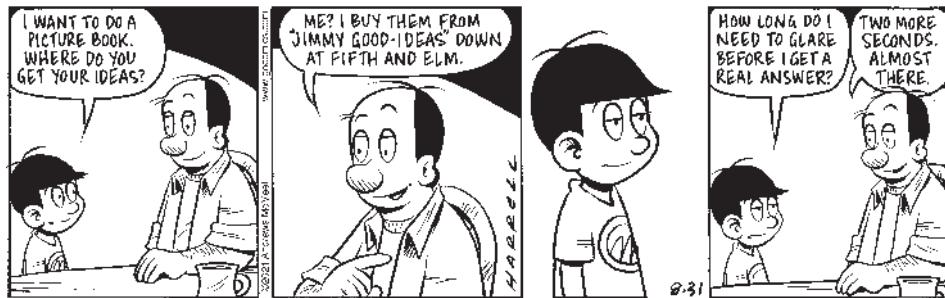
By Bill Watterson

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

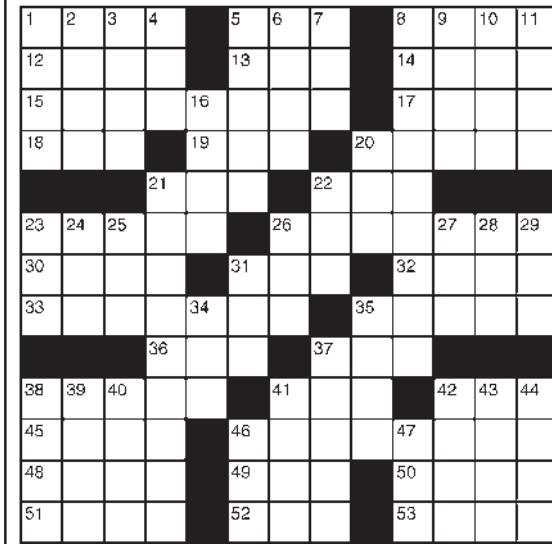
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33	Steak —	22	Irritate
1 "Fight Club" actor	35	Streep of "The Post"	23	Automaton, for short
5 Prohibit	36	Overhead trains	24	Geological period
8 Fed. agents	37	Director Craven	25	Always, in verse
12 Nobel Prize subj.	38	Coke alternative	26	Thanksgiving dessert
13 Year in Mexico	41	Overly	27	Goof up
14 San —, Italy	42	Second person	28	Non-clerical
15 Reacting to a pun	43	"ER"	29	NBC sketch show
17 Elevator name	44	actor La Salle	30	Hosp. workers
21 Dept. store inventory	45	Adults	31	Boxing legend
22 Compete	46	Stead	32	Cat call
23 Bar orders	47	"The" Raven writer	33	Romanced
26 Tuber-nosed seabirds	48	50 "I cannot tell —"	34	Hide
30 Black-and-white cookie	49	Head, to Henri	35	Toledo's lake
31 New Jersey's Fort —	51	Annex	36	Painter Mondrian
32 Tehran's country	52	Must have	37	Walked (on)
	53		38	Christ-mas
			39	Mayberry boy
			40	Second-hand
			41	Agitate
			42	Dean's list stat
			43	Bobbsy twin



Yesterday's answer 8-31



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Sara Ramirez, 46; Chris Tucker, 50; Zack Ward, 51; Richard Gere, 72.

Happy Birthday: Put more thought into the changes you want to make before you proceed. Question your motives to ensure your emotions aren't propelling you instead of practicality and common sense. Channel your energy where it will benefit you most and help bring in more cash, peace of mind and opportunities. When dealing with personal and professional relationships, trust facts, not hearsay. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 24, 32, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll advance if you shift your thoughts to what's important to you and use your intelligence to fast-track what you want to accomplish. Change requires action and finishing what you start. Physical fitness and sharing with someone you love will bring good results. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on getting ahead professionally and putting energy into showing others how efficient and eager you are to use your skills and navigate your way to a better position. An unusual encounter will lead to an emotional decision. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Distance yourself from people who nag or criticize you. Trust your ability to get things done your way and on time. Use your intelligence and finesse to choose the direction you want to pursue. A romantic gesture will enhance your life. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll gain insight if you listen and observe. Don't trust anyone with personal information

or someone handling financial or contractual matters for you. Take control, and bring about the changes you want to happen. Avoid joint ventures and high-risk investments. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Resurrect old ideas and reconnect with people who have something to offer that will help you put your plans into play. A reunion will encourage you to partner with someone who shares your enthusiasm. Love and romance are favored. ☀️☀️

ARIES (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take nothing for granted. If you want something done correctly, do it yourself. Choose your path, and follow through with your plans. Letting someone lead the way won't bring you the satisfaction or happiness you desire. ☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are sitting in a good position, so don't let an emotional incident sabotage your plans. Put serious thought into how you live, what you want to accomplish and where you stand on issues that affect others. Mindful action is encouraged. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live within your budget. Pay attention to the cost of living and where you can cut corners. Do what you can yourself instead of paying someone. A change will encourage you to rethink the way and where you choose to live. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay more attention to the way you look, the services you can offer and exploring new ways to use your skills, knowledge and attributes. A partnership with someone who is just as dedicated to a common cause will blossom. Romance

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

is favored. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't share personal or financial information. Put more into the way you present yourself physically instead of sharing opinions. You'll get more in return if the people you deal with feel comfortable around you. Be a good listener. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at the logistics of a situation you face, then make decisions based on facts, not emotions. A disciplined approach to money, health and rules will spare you being put in an awkward position. Make fitness and romance priorities. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get everything in order before you share your intentions with others. Expect someone jealous to rival you. Know your boundaries and put your energy into finishing what you start. A romantic gesture will take you by surprise. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, energetic and wise. You are opportunistic and curious.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀️: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀️☀️: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀️☀️☀️: Aim high; start new projects. ☀️☀️☀️: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3	5	7			
			2			5		
			9	5		4	6	
7			8	3			2	
6							4	
8			4	9			3	
			6	3		2	4	
			8			7		
			5	1	2			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	5	9	2	3	6	8	4
3	2	9	4	8	6	7	1	5
6	8	4	1	7	5	2	3	9
9	5	3	7	6	4	1	2	8
2	7	1	3	9	8	4	5	6
4	6	8	2	5	1	3	9	7
8	3	7	6	1	9	5	4	2
1	9	6	5	4	2	8	7	3
5	4	2	8	3	7	9	6	1

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE ART OF MALAGA, SPAIN

Solution: 6 letters

B I S O U T H E R N I A P S E
N U N H I S T O R I C A L P E
T O E T I D E T A R U C O L N
H T I N I M S E L I T R Y F E
Y O A S A M U A O V U T K L W
S P C A N V A S S E S A R A B
S S M N B A I T E R D U O R I
E T R A A F M S E U S I W U E
N O T U R B A N T S M M V M S
B H F A C K S T I A R T R O P
S O N R H F E A A G A L A M O
N C W R E I N T P A L A C I O
E W U I S N A I S I R A P U H
E O O S E E C M O O R I S H O
T A R T I S T H E E R T S S

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8/31

Arab, Arches, Artist, Baths, Born, Bowie, Buenavista, Canvases, Curated, Europe, Fine, France, French, Historical, Hot Spot, Intimate, Malaga, Mansion, Market, Moorish, Mural, Museum, Newbies, Palacio, Parisian, Portraits, River, Russian, Soho, Southern, Spain, Spanish, Street, Style, Teen, Thyssen, Tiles, Tour, Town, Urban, Video, Work
Yesterday's Answer: Procedure
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Difficulty Level ★★
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Anderson, Braves shut out Giants for 9-0 victory



ATLANTA (AP) — Jorge Soler and Austin Riley homered off Anthony DeSclafani, Ian Anderson pitched into the sixth inning in his return from the injured list, and the Atlanta Braves beat the San Francisco Giants 9-0 on Sunday.

Soler opened the fourth inning with his 20th homer, a drive into the seats in left. Freddie Freeman followed with an infield single and Riley then launched his 28th homer into the seats in left-center.

Eddie Rosario added two-run triple in the sixth for the NL East leaders, and Ozzie Albies connected for his 23rd homer in the eighth.

The Giants, with the best record in the major leagues, had won 15 of 19. They maintained their 2 1/2-game lead over Los Angeles in the NL West after the Dodgers lost 5-0 to Colorado.

"I have a lot of belief in this club and every time we go on the field I think we're going to win that day's baseball game, but right now I'm not pleased with the way we played this one," San Francisco manager Gabe Kapler said.

Atlanta had lost three of four following a nine-game winning streak. The Braves have a 4 1/2-game lead in the division over Philadelphia.

Next up for Atlanta is a seven-game trip against the defending World Series champion Dodgers and Colorado, which began the day with the second-best home record in the majors.

"It's not going to get any easier next week, that's for sure," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said.

Anderson (6-5) made his first start since July 11 after missing 39 games with right shoulder inflammation. He pitched out of jams in the first with two runners on and in the third with a runner on third.

Rays 12, Orioles 8

In Baltimore, Joey Wendle hit a pair of homers, including a grand slam, and drove in six runs to help the Rays complete a three-game series sweep.

Austin Meadows and Jordan Luplow also homered for AL East-leading Tampa Bay, which finished 18-1 against Baltimore this year. JT Chargois (5-0) picked up his second consecutive win in relief.

Rookie Ryan Mountcastle tied a career high with four hits for Baltimore, including his 24th home run. Jorge Mateo and Cedric Mullins also homered.

Orioles rookie Spenser Watkins (2-7) was charged with six runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

Athletics 3, Yankees 1

In Oakland, Calif., Tony Kemp lined a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Chad Green in the eighth inning and Oakland beat New York.

New York has lost two in a row for the first time since July 22-23.

Kemp entered as a pinch-hitter in the seventh and finished 2 for 2 with his fifth homer of the season, with three of them coming against the Yankees.

Green (7-6) served up his 11th homer of the season.

Deolis Guerra (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth. Andrew Chafin recorded the final three outs to earn his second save of the season.



Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario drops his bat after hitting a single off San Francisco Giants' Anthony DeSclafani in the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, in Atlanta.

Indians 7, Red Sox 5

In Cleveland, Oscar Mercado was awarded home plate on a fielder's obstruction call for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, sending Cleveland to the win.

The Indians trailed 4-0 and didn't have a hit against Boston rookie Tanner Houck until José Ramirez homered with one out in the sixth.

Cleveland was still down 5-4 in the eighth when Austin Hedges hit a tying homer off Austin Davis (0-2).

Mercado then singled and Yu Chang followed with a double down the left field line. Mercado appeared to be thrown out at home, but plate umpire Nic Lentz immediately ruled that Boston second baseman Yairo Munoz had impeded Mercado's progress on the basepaths.

Bryan Shaw (6-6) worked the eighth and Emmanuel Clase pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save, preventing Boston from its first three-game sweep in Cleveland since 2013.

The first pitch was delayed 3 hours, 10 minutes by passing showers.

Marlins 2, Reds 1

In Miami, Jesús Luzardo allowed one hit and no runs in six-plus innings, helping the Marlins take the rubber game of the series.

Luzardo (5-7) had by far his best outing since being acquired from Oakland for Starling Marte at the trade deadline. The left-hander tied a career high with eight strikeouts.

Jesús Sánchez hit a two-run homer for Miami in the first. Dylan Floro gave up a run in the ninth but struck out Kyle Farmer with a runner on second for his seventh save in 11 chances, completing a two-hitter.

Cincinnati's lead over San Diego for the second NL wild card fell to 1 1/2 games.

Miami won with four hits. The Reds' Tyler Mahle (10-5) allowed two runs in seven innings.

Rangers 13, Astros 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis García hit the first grand slam by a Texas batter in almost two years, and the rebuilding Rangers avoided being swept by Houston again.

García's 29th homer was part of an eight-run outburst in the fifth, the highest-scoring inning for the last-place Rangers this season. DJ Peters led it off with a towering 450-foot drive to straightaway center field that made it 6-2 and chased Zack Greinke (11-5).

Dodgers right-hander Mitch White (1-2) gave up three runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Brewers 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Rowdy Tellez hit a three-run homer, Aaron Ashby recorded his first major league win, and NL Central-leading Milwaukee muscled its way out of a three-game losing streak.

Luis Urías also homered and Kolten Wong hit a two-run double for the Brewers, who raised their major league-best road record to 43-23 while ending their only losing streak longer than two games since the All-Star break.

Ashby (1-0) allowed three hits in five innings, including a two-run homer by Miguel Sanó.

Twins rookie Griffin Jax (3-3) gave up six runs over five innings.

run in four of his last six appearances.

Chris Stratton (5-0) got the win, striking out the side in the top half of the inning. Pittsburgh earned a split of the four-game series, bouncing back from a 13-0 loss Saturday.

Tommy Edman hit a two-run homer for St. Louis, which remains 3 1/2 games back of Cincinnati for the second NL wild card.

White Sox 13, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Luis Robert homered twice, Dylan Cease tied a career high with 11 strikeouts and the White Sox pounded the Cubs.

Eloy Jiménez, Yasmani Grandal and Brian Goodwin also connected for the White Sox, who went 5-1 against the Cubs this year. Robert, Jiménez and Goodwin each drove in three runs.

White Sox slugger José Abreu hit a two-run double in a seven-run fifth to get to 101 RBIs with 29 games left.

Cease (11-6) allowed one run and four hits in six innings. The right-hander posted a 4-0 record and a 2.68 ERA in six starts in August.

Frank Schwindel homered for the Cubs. Kyle Hendricks (14-6) was tagged for eight runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis drove in three runs, leading Philadelphia to the victory.

Bryce Harper, Jean Segura and Rafael Marchand each had two hits for the Phillies, who have won three in a row and remained 4 1/2 games behind NL East-leading Atlanta.

Ranger Suárez (6-4) allowed one run in 5 1/3 innings, and Ian Kennedy pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

Nick Ahmed had three RBIs for the Diamondbacks. Madison Bumgarner (7-9) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings.

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 1

In Detroit, José Berrios struck out 11 in seven innings, leading Toronto to the victory.

Bo Bichette and Kevin Smith homered for Toronto, which won 3-2 on Saturday and lost 2-1 on Friday.

Berrios (9-7) allowed an unearned run and six hits. Tim Mayza got four outs for his first career save.

Detroit's Matt Boyd (3-7) allowed two runs in four innings in his first start since June 14. Harold Castro hit an RBI single for the Tigers.

Mets 9, Nationals 4

In New York, Javier Báez and Jonathan Villar homered for the Mets, and Francisco Lindor forced a balk and hit a two-run double.

The Mets took two of three and won a series for the first time since sweeping the Nationals in a three-game set Aug. 10-12.

Josh Bell hit two home runs for Washington and Juan Soto also connected. Those were the only three hits for the Nationals in the game.

Lindor set the tone for the Mets by dancing off third base in the first inning and forcing a balk by Erick Fedde (6-9). It was the first balk of the season for Washington and the first time the Mets have scored via a balk since March 30, 2019, also against the Nationals.

Tyler Megill (2-3) pitched five innings of two-run ball for the win.

Saints move practice to home of Cowboys after Ida evacuation

By BRETT MARTEL
AP SPORTS WRITER

 The New Orleans Saints are planning to practice at the home of the Dallas Cowboys for three days this week after evacuating because of Hurricane Ida, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The team is scheduled to hold workouts Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at AT&T Stadium before taking a break heading into the regular season, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the club wasn't discussing its plans publicly. The Saints are supposed to open at home Sept. 12 against Green Bay.

Ida made landfall south of New Orleans on Sunday as a powerful Category 4 hurricane with winds of 150 mph (230 kph), one of the most powerful storms ever to strike the U.S.

The arrival of Ida came 16 years to the day after Katrina devastated New Orleans. The Saints were forced to move for



Through the morning rain the Huey P Long Bridge can be seen between the Caesars Superdome and the Smoothie King Center as Hurricane Ida approaches the Louisiana coast in New Orleans, La. Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021.

AP

the entire 2005 season, setting up operations in San Antonio while playing home games

there and in Baton Rouge at LSU. New Orleans also played one game at Giants Stadium.

That was before the current regime led by coach Sean Payton joined the franchise. The

Saints went 3-13 in 2005, but spurred on by the quick restoration of the Louisiana Super-

Source: Jets acquire edge rusher Shaq Lawson from Texans

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The New York Jets are replacing one sack-happy Lawson with another.

Edge rusher Shaq Lawson was acquired by the Jets from the Houston Texans on Sunday for a sixth-round pick in next year's NFL draft, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal.

The Jets were in dire need of a pass-rushing specialist after Carl Lawson was lost for the season on Aug. 19 with a ruptured Achilles tendon. New York filled that need by bringing in Shaq Lawson, who has 20 1/2 sacks in five seasons with Buffalo and

Miami. He was acquired by Houston in a trade with the Dolphins in March.

NFL Network first reported the Jets' trade for Shaq Lawson, who is not related to Carl Lawson. The person confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither team had announced the trade.

Shaq Lawson was the 19th overall pick by Buffalo out of Clemson in 2016. After he had 10 sacks in three seasons, the Bills opted to not exercise his fifth-year option—making him a free agent in 2020. The 27-year-old Lawson, who had a career-high 6 1/2 sacks in 2019,

signed a three-year, \$30 million contract with Miami last year.

He had four sacks in 14 games, including seven starts, for the Dolphins. He also returned a fumble for a touchdown. In March, Miami traded him and a sixth-round pick in this year's draft to Houston for linebacker Benardrick McKinney and a seventh-rounder.

Shaq Lawson has two years and \$9.8 million left on his contract, which was restructured by Houston in March. He is making \$990,000 this season.

He is a much-needed addition to a Jets defense that was deflated when Carl Law-

son went down during a joint practice session with the Packers in Green Bay. Much of what coach Robert Saleh and defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich plan to do on defense is predicated on having a solid pass rusher to complement a pocket-squeezing D-line.

They had that in Carl Lawson, who was signed to a three-year, \$45 million contract in March. He had been perhaps the Jets' best player in training camp, consistently making his presence felt in the backfield and giving New York perhaps its first big-time pass rusher in 20 years.

The Jets also lost defensive

end Vinny Curry for the season last week, when he announced he has a rare blood disorder that required his spleen to be removed. He developed blood clots and is taking blood thinners that prevent him from having physical contact for the next three to six months.

Shaq Lawson will now help fill that pass-rushing void as a young but experienced edge rusher. The Jets also have Bryce Huff, a second-year defensive end from Memphis, who is expected to get increased playing time.

The Jets cut safety Bennett Jackson, clearing a roster spot for Lawson.

dome, they went 10-6 and won the NFC South the next year.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue led the move to ensure that the Saints would return to New Orleans, meeting strong resistance from the late Tom Benson, who owned the team and sought to move it permanently to San Antonio. Tagliabue was so insistent on the club remaining in New Orleans that the league ordered a banner posted outside the stadium saying the Saints would play a home game on Sept. 26, 2006.

Ravens' Dobbins expected to miss season because of torn ACL

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Baltimore Ravens running back J.K. Dobbins is expected to miss the 2021 season with a torn ACL.

"Been down this road before," tweeted Zac Hiller, Dobbins' agent, while retweeting an ESPN report about the injury. "He'll come back bigger stronger faster."

Dobbins left the Ravens' preseason finale at Washington on Saturday night midway through the first quarter following his injury, and coach John Harbaugh said only that the former Ohio State star would be evaluated. The news Sunday is a blow for Baltimore, which led the NFL in rushing last season.

Much of the Ravens' rushing prowess of late has been because of quarterback Lamar Jackson, but Dobbins ran for 805 yards and nine touchdowns as a rookie last season. Gus Edwards, who ran for 723 yards and six TDs, could now play a more important role.

Baltimore set an NFL record Saturday with its 20th consecutive preseason victory, but this hasn't been an easy training camp for the Ravens. Jackson and Edwards both missed the start of camp after positive COVID-19 tests, and the team's revamped receiving corps has had injury issues as well.

Dobbins' injury will likely bring more questions about whether it's worthwhile for key players to play at all during the preseason. But Dobbins had only three carries in the team's first preseason game and four in the second. He had two Saturday. The injury actually came when he was tackled on a screen pass from Jackson, who was making his own preseason debut this year.

"All I know is (Dobbins) is one of the toughest guys out there," Hiller wrote on Twitter on Saturday night. "No matter what it is this is only year 2 of 20."

Vikes sign 10th-year safety Harrison Smith to \$64M extension

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings signed five-time Pro Bowl safety Harrison Smith to a four-year contract extension on Sunday, securing the team's longest-tenured player for what could be the remainder of his decorated career.

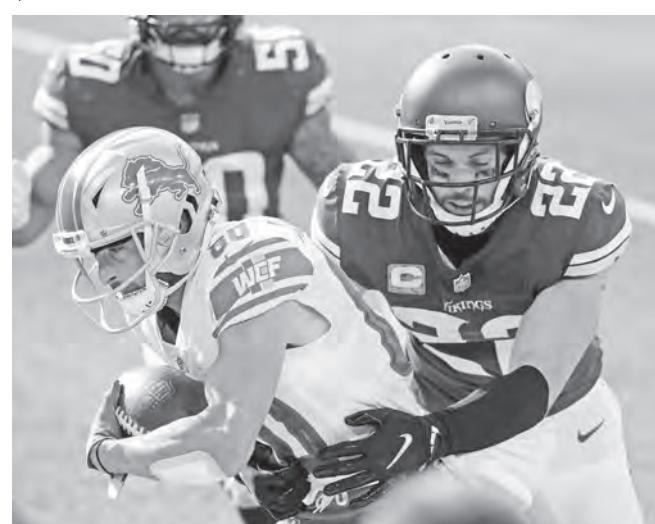
Smith has a league-leading 28 interceptions among all safeties since he entered the NFL in 2012. Only Hall of Famer Paul Krause (150) has started more games at safety in Vikings history than Smith (129).

According to a person with knowledge of the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity because the terms were not being announced, the new contract is worth \$64 million with a little more than \$26 million guaranteed. That will

put Smith safely among the top five highest-paid safeties in the NFL, with Seattle's Jamal Adams at the top of the annual average values.

Prior to the signing, Smith was in the final year of his deal with a salary cap hit slightly above \$10 million. At age 32, the new contract ought to ensure he'll stay with the Vikings as long as he's on the field. No one from the team was available to the media on Sunday. Smith was scheduled to address reporters on Monday.

Drafted in the first round in 2012 out of Notre Dame, Smith quickly entrenched himself as the anchor of the secondary and had two of his four career interception returns for touchdowns as a rookie. He made his first Pro



In this Nov. 8, 2020, file photo, Detroit Lions wide receiver Danny Amendola (80) tries to break a tackle by Minnesota Vikings safety Harrison Smith (22) after catching a pass during the first half of an NFL football game in Minneapolis.

with 13 1/2 career sacks.

Smith is seventh in Vikings history in interceptions, with Krause (53) leading the way. Bobby Bryant (51), Ed Sharrack (40), Joey Browner (37), Nate Wright (31) and Carl Lee (29) are next.

Smith has not missed a game to injury over the last four years, with just one absence in 2019 when the Vikings held several starters out of the final regular season game with their seed for the playoffs already secured.

This year, Smith will have all new starters around him in the secondary, with safety Xavier Woods and cornerbacks Patrick Peterson, Bashaud Breeland and Mackensie Alexander all signed as free agents.

Cantlay comes up clutch to beat DeChambeau in playoff at BMW



OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Patrick Cantlay had enough on his hands to keep his attention Sunday as he was locked in an epic battle with Bryson DeChambeau, a compelling contrast of styles and personalities Sunday in the BMW Championship.

Even so, he couldn't ignore what fans shouted from behind the ropes Sunday at Caves Valley.

"Patty Ice."

With the putter in his hand

and ice in his veins, Cantlay delivered one clutch putt after another to survive the final three holes of regulation and six tense holes of a sudden-death playoff, finally winning with a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole.

The most important putt? It was hard to tell.

He closed out his 6-under 66 with an 8-foot par putt on the 16th, an 8-foot bogey putt on the 17th after a tee shot into the water, and a 20-foot birdie on the 18th to force a playoff. Twice on the 18th in the playoff, where DeChambeau had a



Patrick Cantlay holds the trophy after winning the BMW Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021, at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Md. AP

we made a plan especially for them. We just wanted to make sure their ace spiker, Ko, would be contained. He's really our main problem. We did it tonight so we won the championship," he said.

Chlarsen also pointed to the play of their women players as providing Fresh Approach the edge in the finals.

"Our women players are really agile and can really play. It's definitely one of the factors and I would like to thank them and all my players for getting us this win.

He said more than the championship medals that every member of the team got, winning the first 6x6 indoor volleyball tournament since the COVID-19 pandemic began gave them the all-important bragging rights.

"We've always played against them in open gym. So it's like we showed that we're the better team by winning this tournament," he said.

The rest of Fresh Approach includes Nilo Calimag, John Matias, Jerry Saures, Jasper Perez, Iszel Estevez, Kat

Saures, and Alysa Baquilles.

Aside from the towering Kumuch, Old School was made up of captain Mei Ren-giil, Yohei Iwashita, Nak Nakashima, Ryan Camacho, Typhoon Saito, Mike Omar, Ana Ina, and Nakashima Atalig.

Fresh Approach began its campaign Thursday with a 25-20, 28-26 heart-pounding win over Agape's Yang Gang. They followed that up with a 25-10, 25-16 triumph over New Kids on the Block on Friday, before losing the aforementioned match against Old School.

30-yard advantage off the tee, Cantlay made par putts from 6 feet and 7 feet.

The most important putt was the last one.

"But they all mattered, I guess, the same," Cantlay said. "I needed all of them."

DeChambeau, who also closed with a 66, can pick just as many that cost him. His week featured a missed 6-footer on the 18th for a chance at 59 on Friday. And in the final round, he missed a 12-foot birdie to win in regulation, three more birdie putts in the playoff, and then his final

putt to send the great theater into another amazing scene.

DeChambeau, who has stopped talking to any media that isn't a PGA Tour partner, refused comment for everyone Sunday. He became the first player in PGA Tour history to post 261 without taking home a trophy.

Cantlay received two trophies—one from the the BMW Championship, the other from the century-old Western Golf Association—and plenty of other perks for his PGA Tour-leading third victory of the season and fifth overall.

shellacking of The Big Ducks 2.0 before recording the same score in a win against Ashes.

On Friday, Old School beat Fresh Approach and ran their winning streak to four straight with a tough 0-25, 25-17, 15-3 win over New Kids on the Block on Saturday. Next up was Skr-Skr which they beat 25-16, 25-14. They then dispatched Agape's Yang Gang, 25-20, 25-15, and then recorded back-to-back wins over New Kids on the Block, 25-20, 25-11 and 25-19, 25-8, to reach the finals as the top seed.

program. Gross added that five NMBA members have also joined the PSS Community Coach Program to support the inaugural badminton event in the interscholastic level. The coaches will be assigned to participating schools to conduct practice sessions and guide students during the competition.

Meanwhile, Tolentino said that holding the first badminton interscholastic event will give NMBA game officials and volunteers the opportunity to have "dry-run events" for the Mini Games that the CNMI will be hosting from June 17 to 25 next year. The association's umpires and line judges have been attending workshops in preparations for the Mini Games hosting, but would need actual game experiences to practice and improve their officiating skills. (PR)



From left, Northern Marianas Badminton Association vice president Nate Guerrero, PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino, general secretary Christy Villaflor, and director Janelle Pangilinan pose for a photo after NMBA and PSS signed a memorandum of agreement for the inclusion of badminton in the CNMI interscholastic sports program last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commissioner Alfred Ada, and PSS Athletic director Nick Gross for making this happen. Badminton, like any other sport, is committed to provide our children access to activities

that promote athletic skills development and positive values on and off the court and encourage them to live a healthy and active lifestyle through sports," Tolentino said.

To move ahead with the NMBA/PSS badminton interscholastic competition, Gross said they will be providing 168 rackets, 360 shuttlecocks, and 24 portable net sets for the

JACOB'S

From Page 20

ment, while Jacob's Bakeshop got to live another day.

Jacob's Bakeshop took the bull by the horns early and erected an 8-point lead in the first half, thanks to the 7 points of forward D.J. Ong. OG Rollers rallied like there was no tomorrow in the second half with Eman Feria knocking shot after shot.

Both teams were in a dog-fight late in game until Jacob's Bakeshop caught a break when OG Rollers, who were already in the penalty, fouled Perez twice. Perez didn't disappoint, going 75% from the stripe to lead his team to the

heart-stopping victory.

No player finished in double figures in the game with center James Kintz pacing Jacob's Bakeshop with 9 points and 7 rebounds. Renren Gaviola also added 9 points, while Ong chipped in 7 in the win. Feria fired 9 points, while Kya Aldan tossed in 8 more in the loss.

In the first game, the San Antonio Sixers remained undefeated after torching a listless Pacific Auto side, 40-29. After an 18-18 tie in the first half, the Sixers threw everything but the kitchen sink against Pacific Auto resulting in the 11-point victory.

National team candidate Jack Aranda was the high-

point man in the victory with 14 points, while James Camacho led Pacific Auto's anemic offense with 7 markers.

In the third game, GMJ/IKKI held off a spirited late-game rally by K2 Ballers to prevail 56-53. Eugene Mangali and Joemar Agustin started strong for GMJ/IKKI as both combined for a dozen points to give their team a 38-28 spread at halftime.

K2 Ballers, however, wouldn't go down without a fight and thanks to the 8 points of Dame Deleon Guerrero and 7 points of John Black made a game of it before eventually running out of steam in the end.

Alvin Fundador and Agustin led GMJ/IKKI to the win with 8

points apiece, while K2 Ballers' Black and Deleon Guerrero scored 15 and 13 markers, respectively, in the loss.

In last game of the day, Marianas Dental also ousted Socho 1 with a 61-48 demolition. After building a 30-20 lead in the first half, Marianas Dental would just add to the double-digit lead in the second half en route to the baker's dozen victory.

Jecil Gant scored 18 points and Joseph Torres 12 points in the win, while Mariano Aguon Jr. paced K2 Socho 1 with 12 points.

First Game

Sixers 40 – Aranda 14, Andrew 6, De Guzman 5, Fidelino

5, Itaas 5, Larasa 3, Flores 2.

Pacific Auto 29 – Ja. Camacho 7, Estevez 5, Castro 4, Lizama 4, Ju. Camacho 3, Joyner 2, Quan 2, Teregeyo 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-18, 40-29.

Second Game

Jacob's Bakeshop 43 – Kintz 9, Gaviola 9, Ong 7, Perez 4, Lilues 4, Santos 4, Francisco 3, Camacho 2.

Rollers OG 42 – Feria 9, Aldan 8, Garcia 6, Babauta 5, Satur 5, Naraja 4, Pangilinan 4.

Scoring by halves: 21-13, 43-42.

Third Game

GMJ/IKKI 56 – Funda-

dor 8, Agustin 8, Icaño 8, Romo 7, Mangali 7, Galang 6, Hipolito 4, Reyes 4, Ferrer 2, Augustin 2.

K2 Ballers 53 – Black 15, Deleon Guerrero 13, Limes 9, Faisao 7, Lizama 4, Hocog 4, Babauta 2.

Scoring by halves: 38-28, 56-53.

Fourth Game

Marianas Dental 61 – Gant 18, Torres 12, Ferrari 9, Dancel 8, Apasan 6, Ariar 4, Estores 3, Ben 1.

Socho 1 48 – Aguon 12, Sharry 7, Q. Faisao 7, Irog 6, Augustino 5, Nekafes 5, Malwebug 4, D. Faisao 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-20, 61-48.



Anderson, Braves shut out Giants for 9-0 victory

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Cantlay comes up clutch to beat DeChambeau in playoff at BMW

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fresh Approach tops BTS v-ball tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fresh Approach exacted sweet revenge on eliminations round tormentor Old School when it mattered the most to win the championship of the Agape Christian School's Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

After losing to Old School in two tightly fought sets last Friday, 24-26, 23-25, Fresh Approach players put their collective heads together and game-planned for a more positive result next time they face the stacked squad, knowing too well that the path to the tour-



Team Fresh Approach players show off their championship medals after beating Old School in the finals of Agape Christian School's Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai. **MARK RABAGO**



nement championship would go through Old School.

And they were right, as Fresh Approach and Old School indeed met each other in the winner-or-go home championship match as the Top 2 teams after the eliminations.

In the first set, Fresh Approach capitalized on their speed to negate power-hitter Ko Kumuch's powerful spikes. Their activity on defense plus timely hits from Steven Balakrishna and Jerome Manzon led them to a surprisingly east 25-15 win.

Old School tried hard to force a third set and buckled down to work at the start of the second set. They made sure Kumuch would get his chances in the net and he obliged his teammates by tattooing several spikes on the floor. But Fresh Approach adjusted mid-set and double-teamed the over 6-foot spiker every time he was near the net.

It was nip-and-tuck all throughout what wound up to be the final set, but in the end Fresh Approach put out all the stops to eke out a 25-22 sec-

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Fresh Approach and Old School players in action in the first set of their championship match in the Back-to-School Co-ed Volleyball Tournament. **MARK RABAGO**

Badminton debuts in interscholastic competition

NMBA For the first time in the history of interscholastic competition in the CNMI, badminton will be included in the Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program.

Badminton competition will have its debut in the 2021-2022 school year and will be played by middle school and high school students both from private and public schools. Northern Marianas Badminton Association will run the interscholastic competition for PSS starting in October this year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross, PSS associate commissioner for Student Support Services Yvonne Pangelinan, and NMBA president Merlie Tolentino signed a memorandum of agreement last Thursday in a brief ceremony before the Northern Marianas Sports As-



Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, right, signs the memorandum of agreement, while PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross, left, and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada look on.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sociation meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. It officially marked the partnership of PSS

and NMBA in the promotion and development of the sport in the interscholastic level. "We would like to welcome

the Northern Marianas Badminton Association to the PSS Student Support Services Ath- See BADMINTON on Page 19

Jacob's Bakeshop nips OG Rollers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jacob's Bakeshop & Barbecue nipped OG Rollers as the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament continued Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Coach Edong Echavez's team trailed 42-40 with around a minute to go in the second game of the scheduled four-set that playdate. However, Rollers OG failed to score to rest of the way and Jacob's Bakeshop closed on a 3-0 endgame run all on free throws from Isaac Perez.

The loss eliminated OG Rollers from further action in the open men's tourna-

See JACOB'S on Page 19



Jacob's Bakeshop & Barbecue James Kintz, seen here in action against GMJ/IKKI, scored 9 points in their win against OG Rollers in the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium. **MARK RABAGO**